FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-122
Monday
24 June 1996

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-122 CONTENTS *24 June 1996*

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ISSUES

Russia: Yeltsin 'Exhausted' by Election; Unable To Dance With Youth *[Moscow NTV]* 1
Russia: Yeltsin Receives 40.4 Percent of Black Sea Fleet Vote *[UNIAN]* 1
Russia: Lebed, Yavlinskiy Voters To Support Yeltsin *[Moscow NTV]* 1
Russia: Zhirinovskiy To Support Yeltsin With 'Condition' *[INTERFAX]* 1
Russia: Agrarian Party Not To Support Yeltsin in Runoff Election *[INTERFAX]* 2
Russia: Yavlinskiy Offers Yeltsin Conditional Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Russia: Yabloko Announces Stand for Second Round of Elections *[INTERFAX]* 3
Russia: Yabloko's Conditions for Supporting Yeltsin Detailed *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Russia: Yeltsin, Zyuganov To Receive 40 Minutes Free Airtime *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* 3
Russia: Zyuganov Announces Principals for People's Trust Coalition *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Russia: Zyuganov, Moscow Mayor Discuss 'Program of Action' *[INTERFAX]* 4
Russia: Zyuganov Hopes To Gain Lebed's Votes in Second Round *[INTERFAX]* 4
Russia: Workers To Be Fired If They Vote Against Zyuganov *[Moscow RTV]* 5
Russia: Lebed Insists He Is No Threat to Democracy *[Moscow RTV]* 5
Russia: Lebed Meets Representatives of Election Teams *[Moscow ORT]* 6
Russia: Lebed Meets With Election Representatives *[Moscow Radio]* 6
Russia: KRO Official Gives Election Forecast *[Moscow Radio]* 7
Russia: Significance of Lebed-Chubays Link Seen *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 22 Jun]* 8
Russia: Full Details of Election Results Published *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 22 Jun]* 9
Russia: Electoral Commission Chairman Denies Vote-Rigging Charge *[Moscow NTV]* 10
Russia: Aides Report 'Serious Violations' to Prosecutor General *[INTERFAX]* 11

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS: Crans Montana Meeting Addresses Eastern European Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Jun 12

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Russia: Primakov Offers Views on NATO, CIS, East Europe, Japan *[INTERFAX]* 14
Russia: 'Discrepancy' Seen in NATO, Russian Views of NATO Session *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 21 Jun]* 15
Russia: Duma's Yushenkov on Need for Closer Ties With NATO *[Moscow International]* 16
Russia: NATO Welcomes Lebed Appointment as Security Chief *[INTERFAX]* 16
Russia: Chernomyrdin, Gore Discuss Cooperation, Coming Election *[INTERFAX]* 16
Russia: Gore, Chernomyrdin Commission To Meet in Moscow 14-16 Jul *[INTERFAX]* 17
Russia: Yeltsin's Visit to Belarus To Help Integration *[INTERFAX]* 17
Russia: President Yeltsin Leaves Brest for Kaliningrad *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Russia: Stroyev: Yeltsin's Visit to Brest Vital for Integration *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Russia: Chernomyrdin Speaks on Russian-Belarusian Cooperation *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 21 Jun]* 18
Russia: Moscow Gives 8 Billion Rubles to Belarus Chernobyl Victims *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Russia: Moscow Opposes Resumption of Sanctions Against Serbs *[INTERFAX]* 19
Russia: Diplomat on Results of Voting by Russians in Baltics *[INTERFAX]* 19

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Lays Wreath at Grave of Unknown Soldier *[INTERFAX]* 20

Russia: Yeltsin Visits Kaliningrad Region *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Russia: Yeltsin Addresses Crew at Baltic Naval Base *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Russia: Chernomyrdin Holds News Conference 22 Jun *[Moscow ORT]* 21
Russia: Chernomyrdin Rules Out Chubays Joining Government *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Russia: Chernomyrdin Letter Informs Duma About Recent Cadre Changes *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Russia: Government Session, Other Events Postponed *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Russia: Zyuganov Meets With Constitutional Court Chairman *[INTERFAX]* 24
Russia: Zyuganov: Yeltsin Supporters Manipulating Public Opinion *[Moscow NTV]* 24
Russia: Lebed Explains Alliance With Yeltsin *[INTERFAX]* 25
Russia: Lebed Cited on Proposed New Functions of Security Council *[Moscow Radio]* 25
Russia: Yavlinskiy Accepts Defeat, Prepares for Elections in 2000 *[INTERFAX]* 26
Russia: Oleg Lobov's New Job Predicted Not To Last *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Jun]* 26
Russia: Security Council Deputy Secretary Denies Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 27

Military Issues

Russia: Lebed: Yeltsin To Name New Defense Minister 24 or 25 Jun *[INTERFAX]* 27
Russia: Lebed Proposes General Rodionov for Defense Minister Post *[INTERFAX]* 28
Russia: Military Shows Professional Calm Toward Kremlin Shake-Up *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Jun]* 28
Russia: General Reports No Army Coup Attempts After Grachev Dismissal *[INTERFAX]* 29
Russia: Lebed Discusses Personnel Changes, Military Reform *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 22 Jun]* 29
Russia: Lebed Does Not Attend Defense Ministry Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 31

Federal Assembly

Russia: Lebed Addresses Duma on Situation in Armed Forces *[INTERFAX]* 31
Russia: Lebed Tells Duma of His Part in Preventing Army Unrest *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Russia: State Duma Ratifies Internatational Agreements *[INTERFAX]* 32
Russia: Duma Issues Appeal to Premier Over Gold-Producing Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Russia: Russia Is Our Home Suggests Duma Democratic Coalition *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 21 Jun]* 33

Regional Affairs

Russia: Yeltsin: 'Kaliningrad Region Is Russian Soil' *[Moscow NTV]* 33
Russia: Yeltsin Boosts Morale in Kaliningrad Region *[Radio Rossii]* 33
Russia: Zavgayev Views Effect Lebed May Have on Chechen Situation *[INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY]* 34
Russia: Tikhomirov Fails To Appear for Planned Talks With Maskhadov *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Russia: Yandarbiyev Convenes Emergency Meeting of Defense Committee *[INTERFAX]* 34
Russia: Spokesmen for Zavgayev Take Part in Talks on Military *[INTERFAX]* 34
Russia: Aide of Moscow-Backed Chechen Leader Zavgayev Kidnapped *[INTERFAX]* 35
Russia: Spokesman: Moscow Concerned About Chechen 'Provocations' *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Russia: Russian-Chechen Talks on Military Issues End in Vain *[INTERFAX]* 35
Russia: Chechen Truce in Danger of Collapse Despite Efforts *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Russia: Chechen Opposition Prepares To Defend Vedeno Settlement *[INTERFAX]* 37
Russia: Chechen Negotiator Comments on Federal Intent *[INTERFAX]* 37
Russia: Udugov Blames 'Zavgayev Militia', Lone Fighters for Attacks *[INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY]* 37
Russia: Groznyy Conference Discusses Local, Presidential Elections *[INTERFAX]* 37

Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Law on Budget Changes *[INTERFAX]* 38

Russia: Financial Market Reacts to Lebed Appointment *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 21 Jun]* 38
Russia: Central Bank Official Links Recent Problems With Elections *[INTERFAX]* 39
Russia: Consumer Price Inflation Continues To Decline *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 22 Jun]* 39

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Ukraine: Udovenko on Impact of Russian Elections *[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 20 Jun]* 40
Ukraine: Kuchma: Russian Election Will Not Change Kiev's Policy *[UNIAN]* 41
Ukraine: Kiev Against New NATO Members Having Nuclear Weapons *[INTERFAX]* 41
Ukraine: Security Secretary Dislikes Foreign Troops Amendment *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Jun]* 42
Ukraine: Kostenko Criticizes Slowness of Loans for Chernobyl Closure *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Ukraine: Minister: U.S. Not Ready To Finance Chernobyl Closure *[INFOBANK]* 42
Ukraine: Joint Communique on Ukrainian-Kyrgyz Talks Issued *[UKRINFORM]* 43
Ukraine: Brazilian Cooperation Sought in Launching Satellites *[INTELNEWS]* 43

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kiev Accused of Deceiving Council of Europe on Citizenship *[UNIAR]* 44
Ukraine: Kuchma Against Immediate Ban on Foreign Bases *[INTERFAX]* 44
Ukraine: ICBM Dismantling Shop To Be Put Into Operation 15 Jul *[INFOBANK]* 44
Ukraine: Parliament Debates New Constitution Draft *[INTERFAX]* 44
Ukraine: Kuchma To Make Decision on New Constitution 'Next Week' *[UNIAN]* 45
Ukraine: High-Ranking Crimean Delegation Holds Talks With Kuchma *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 20 Jun]* 45
Ukraine: Crimean Tatar Leader Sees Increasing Radicalization *[INTELNEWS]* 45

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Belarus: Yeltsin Addresses Brest People on Community, NATO *[INTERFAX]* 47
Belarus: Yeltsin Maps Out Integration Priorities With Belarus *[INTERFAX]* 47
Belarus: Yeltsin Speech Commemorates 'Remembrance Day' *[Moscow RTV]* 47
Belarus: Lukashenka, Yeltsin Work for Greater Integration *[INTERFAX]* 48
Belarus: Yeltsin Press Spokesman on Agreements With Belarus *[Minsk Radio]* 49
Belarus: Lukashenka Finds Rapprochement With Russia 'Irreversible' *[INTERFAX]* 49
Belarus: Lukashenka Addresses War, Future in Brest Fortress *[Moscow RTV]* 49
Belarus: Jun 22 Marked as Day of Remembrance, Mourning *[INTERFAX]* 50
Belarus: Lukashenka: Presidential Elections All About Power, Money *[Moscow NTV]* 50
Belarus: Lukashenka Restricting Freedom of Movement *[Moscow NTV]* 51
Belarus: Sharetski, Poland's Zych Meet, Plan Roundtable Caucus *[BELAPAN]* 51
Belarus: SupSov Approves Pact on Parliamentary Assembly With Russia *[BELAPAN]* 51
Belarus: Deputy Speaker Denies Presidential Charges *[INTERFAX]* 52

Moldova

Moldova: Lebed Rumored To Replace Russian Commander in Dniester *[INFOTAG]* 54
Moldova: Snegur Urges Parliament To Appoint New Defense Minister *[INFOTAG]* 53
Moldova: Gen Creanga Rejects Snegur Accusations in Parliament *[BASAPRESS]* 53
Moldova: Defense Committee Head Suggests Gen Creanga Should Resign *[INFOTAG]* 54
Moldova: Snegur Addresses Conference on Country's Development *[INFOTAG]* 54
Moldova: PDAM Council Nominates Sangheli as Presidential Candidate *[BASAPRESS]* 54

Moldova: Gagauz Leader Criticizes Chisinau 'Radical Nationalists' *[BASAPRESS]* 55

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: President: Russian Elections Reveal Democratic Progress *[Almaty TV]* 56
Kazakhstan: Increase in U.S. Aid for N-Weapon Destruction Noted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Jun]* 56
Kazakhstan: World Bank Grants $80 Million Loan for Water Project *[Almaty Radio]* 57

CAUCASUS

Georgia

Georgia: Defense Minister Clarifies Aim of Moscow Visit *[BGI]* 58
Georgia: Lebed-Nadibaidze Situation Not To Affect Relations *[INTERFAX]* 59
Georgia: Reaction in Georgia to Lebed's Coup Remarks *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 Jun]* 59
Georgia: Stance on Abkhaz-Georgian Conflict Toughens With Lebed *[IBERIA]* 60

Russia: Yeltsin 'Exhausted' by Election; Unable To Dance With Youth

LD2306205396 Moscow NTV in Russian
1700 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Video report by correspondent Vladimir Luskanov; from the "Itogi" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Luskanov] Russian President Boris Yeltsin was the only person in Russia who did not believe that a second round of presidential elections was inevitable. That was perhaps the only error in his preelection campaign. Yeltsin was disappointed by the results of 16 June. Addressing the people immediately after the first round, the president looked exhausted. [passage omitted]

[Luskanov] Will he be able to get his breath back? Will he have enough strength for another dash? People from his immediate entourage were the first not to believe in what the president could do — Oleg Soskovets, Aleksandr Korzhakov, and Mikhail Barsukov who tried to force the president to renounce a second round. In essence, they betrayed him since without the elections Yeltsin is not Yeltsin. Boris Yeltsin was faced with two unexpected and serious problems at the decisive moment: an attempt by the power-wielding structures to sort out the president's preelection team, and physical exhaustion. But the paradox of Yeltsin is that the worse things are for him the better he plays. [passage omitted]

[Luskanov] Will Yeltsin be able to preserve the position of real leader in the present company of his new allies, Aleksandr Lebed and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, each of whom has already put forward his package of conditions to the president? Second, a great deal now depends upon what part of the preelection work Yeltsin's preelection headquarters can take upon itself. It is obvious that the president today is not up to dancing with young people. Finally, third, the decisive condition, how many Russians will turnout to vote on 3 July? If 70-80 percent of those who have the right to vote turn out to cast their ballot in the second round the results can be easily predicted.

Russia: Yeltsin Receives 40.4 Percent of Black Sea Fleet Vote

LD2206120696 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1110 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol — Today, the Black Sea Fleet Press Center announced the final results of the first round election of the Russian president at the Black Sea Fleet. It said Boris Yeltsin received 40.4 percent of the votes (at some limited-access polling stations set up at military units, where only Black Sea Fleet sailors had been casting their votes, the figure reached 89 percent). Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, received 19.9 percent, Aleksandr Lebed 19.7 percent, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy 8 percent of votes.

The Press Center points out that the voting was marked by high activity among servicemen: 100 percent of all servicemen on the electors' list turned up at the polling stations; only 6 percent of members of their families eligible to vote failed to take part in the election.

Observers from the United States, Ukraine, and from the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, who were monitoring the election, did not register any violations of the election law during the election in Crimea.

Russia: Lebed, Yavlinskiy Voters To Support Yeltsin

LD2306193496 Moscow NTV in Russian
1700 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] In a two-minute report, Yevgeniy Kiselev details an opinion poll done by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center on the second round of the Russian presidential elections. Respondents who had voted for Aleksandr Lebed, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, or Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in the first round were asked about their intentions in the second round.

Of Lebed voters, 39 percent intend to vote for Yeltsin and 14 percent for Zyuganov. A further 39 percent have yet to decide, 6 percent will vote against both, and 2 percent will not vote.

Of Yavlinskiy voters, 51 percent have chosen Yeltsin and 6 percent Zyuganov. Seven percent will vote against both, 32 percent have yet to decide, and 4 percent will not vote.

Of Zhirinovskiy voters, 14 percent have chosen Yeltsin and 25 percent Zyuganov. Twenty-one percent will vote against both, 38 percent have yet to decide, and 2 percent will not vote.

Russia: Zhirinovskiy To Support Yeltsin With 'Condition'

LD2406102296 Moscow Interfax in English
0855 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Interfax) — Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is prepared to support incumbent President Boris Yeltsin in the second round of the Russian presidential elections on the condition that "understandings are reached" through personal consultations between Yeltsin, Zhirinovskiy and leader of the Communist Party

Gennadiy Zyuganov. Zhirinovskiy told Interfax Monday morning that he is prepared to meet with Yeltsin and Zyuganov together or separately.

"The acting president must make public the composition of his new government" which would include himself, Zyuganov and Yabloko party leader Grigory Yavlinskiy, Zhirinovskiy said.

It is essentially important that both presidential candidates fire most orthodox figures on their teams, he said. These people are Yeltsin aides Viktor Ilyushin, Georgiy Satarov, Yuriy Baturin, Aleksandr Livshits, Sergey Filatov, Sergey Shakhray and Anatoliy Chubais, Zhirinovskiy insisted.

A criminal case should be opened against Chubays, who has to face responsibility "for criminal privatization, or the adverse role he played in the reform should be denounced in another way," Zhirinovskiy said.

Zyuganov, for his part, has to "immediately dismiss Valentin Kuptsov, Anatoliy Lukyanov, Aleksandr Shabanov, Nikolay Ryzhkov, Mikhail Lapshin, Vasiliy Starodubtsev, Viktor Anpilov, and other 'radicals,'" he said.

Zhirinovskiy explained that his proposals should not be viewed as an ultimatum. "In the course of personal consultations I am prepared to withdraw these proposals and make others. I am prepared for a compromise and [will] consider proposals made by the others," he said.

If such a compromise is not reached, Zhirinovskiy will call on his supporters, which he estimates to be about 10 percent of the electorate, to vote against both Yeltsin and Zyuganov.

Russia: Agrarian Party Not To Support Yeltsin in Runoff Election

LD2406105696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0958 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Interfax) — Russia's agrarians will not support President Boris Yeltsin in the runoff election on July 3, Mikhail Lapshin, the head of the Agrarian Party of Russia, told Interfax on Monday.

The government's decision to hold an all-Russian agrarian conference on June 28 is aimed at "driving a wedge" among those who "have already made their choice by electing Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov as their candidate to the presidency in the majority of regions on June 16," Lapshin said.

The conference, which Yeltsin is expected to address, will consider the implementation of a federal program of stabilization and development of the agro-industrial sector in 1996-2000.

However, Lapshin believes that "this is just camouflage."

"The actual goal of such a meeting of the agricultural leadership — real peasants will never stop work at this time of year — can be seen as the undisguised desire of the authorities to win rural residents over to the side of the present president in the second round of elections," he said.

He stressed that "such violence with regard to peasants is doomed to failure, because they have made their choice in favor of Zyuganov" as shown by the results of the first round.

Russia: Yavlinskiy Offers Yeltsin Conditional Support

LD2406083996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0742 GMT 24 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 24 Jun (ITAR-TASS) — Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is calling on his supporters to make sure they turn out for the second round of the presidential election, but he is putting forward a number of conditions for supporting Boris Yeltsin.

Commenting today in an ITAR-TASS interview on the weekend congress of the Yabloko movement, G. Yavlinskiy stressed that virtually all the delegates were "unanimous in their wish to prevent an election victory for Gennadiy Zyuganov." At the same time there was a serious debate over whether or not to support Boris Yeltsin. However, the participants agreed that to vote against both candidates, as a number of delegates suggested, "would signify indirect support for Zyuganov, which would be a totally foolhardy thing for us to do," G. Yavlinskiy noted.

He said that the congress decided that Boris Yeltsin's candidacy could be supported in the second round providing the president answers a number of questions by 3 July. These were formulated in a letter sent to the head of state. They include the question of the mechanism and schedule for a complete end to the confrontation in Chechnya and, as a consequence, the identity of the people who will be appointed to replace the dismissed power-wielding ministers. The congress wants to know whether power-wielding organizations will be brought fully under civilian control. Furthermore, the Yabloko leader noted, "our voters want to know whether there will be any adjustment in the government's economic reform program, so that it is given a greater social angle."

According to G. Yavlinskiy, the letter from the congress asks whether Boris Yeltsin, if he is reelected, is prepared to redistribute some powers from the president to the government and, to a lesser extent, to parliament.

"I hope that Boris Yeltsin's explanations will help our five million voters to make the right choice on 3 July — a choice in favor of reform and democracy," the Yabloko leader said.

Russia: Yabloko Announces Stand for Second Round of Elections

LD2306123296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1156 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GOLITSYNO (Moscow Region), June 23 (Interfax) — The decision on the stand of the Yabloko movement before the second round of the presidential elections in Russia was taken on Sunday afternoon, Yabloko press secretary Yevgeniya Dillendorf has told Interfax.

According to her, on Saturday, the first day of the Yabloko special congress, which took place behind closed doors, 57 deputies spoke on the issue. The discussion ended at midnight. A poll voting to learn the deputies' sentiments was conducted on Sunday. Out of 152 voters 63 will back Yeltsin in the runoff, two deputies will support Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and 87 deputies are determined to vote against both front runners.

After the results of the poll voting were announced, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Yabloko leader, took the floor for the first time at the congress. He spoke out in favor of a conditional support for Yeltsin, and he also favored that the Yabloko regional organizations determine their stand themselves. "Our main principle is to preserve a civil society and we should act accordingly," he said.

Yavlinskiy said that Yeltsin's actions had made Zyuganov politician No 2 or even No 1 in Russia. "Our pressure on Yeltsin is an attempt to reduce Zyuganov's real influence," he said.

Russia: Yabloko's Conditions for Supporting Yeltsin Detailed

LD2306163296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1612 GMT 23 Jun 96

[By Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 23 (Itar-Tass) — The liberal Yabloko movement today held a conference in Golitsino, outside Moscow, to decide whether to support Boris Yeltsin in the July 3 runoff presidential election.

The bloc is led by economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, who has dropped out from the election after he came in fourth with seven per cent.

The refrain of prolonged debates at the conference was that Yabloko has no alternative to backing Yeltsin as a guarantor of further democratic reforms, on conditions.

The conference has called on supporters of Yavlinskiy to come to polling stations on July 3 to vote in favour of democracy and freedom.

As for the conditions, Yeltsin is to come up with an account, within ten days, of what he had done to stop the bloodshed in Chechnya and what replacements he plans for the recently sacked chiefs of security services and conservative first vice-premier Oleg Soskovets.

He is also to make amendments to the government's social and economic programmes.

Furthermore, Yeltsin is expected to motion to the State Duma lower house of parliament constitutional amendements which would curtail presidential powers.

The conference has held a secret pilot ballot to elucidate the pattern of opinion about the need to back Yeltsin.

The voting has resulted in the resolution calling for support to Russia's democratic reforms.

Russia: Yeltsin, Zyuganov To Receive 40 Minutes Free Airtime

LD2406120496 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a draw for free airtime for broadcasts on television and radio, Russian presidential candidates Gennadiy Zyuganov and Boris Yeltsin have received a total of 40 minutes each between 26 June and 1 July. The sides were unable in the course of two weeks to agree on the distribution of airtime, so they had to submit to the rules of a draw under the law on presidential elections. Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, stressed that as the television broadcasting schedule has already been planned, the candidates would have to choose today the most convenient times from the available time gaps allocated to them via the draw.

Russia: Zyuganov Announces Principals for People's Trust Coalition

LD2406094196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0906 GMT 24 Jun 96

[By Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Itar-Tass) — Presidential candidate from the People's Patriotic

Bloc Communist Gennadiy Zyuganov announced at a press conference here today the principles for setting up a People's Trust Government, which he offers to form if he wins the presidential elections. However, he did not give the names of the candidates to the concrete ministerial posts.

In Zyuganov's opinion, the People's Trust Government could be formed on a parity basis by the three main political forces — the People's Patriotic Bloc, the country's present leadership, and the other parties (12 members each).

The Communist leader named the twelve candidates to the cabinet from his bloc, but did not specify to exactly what posts he wanted them to be appointed. They include Aman Tuleyev, Sergey Baburin, Svetlana Goryacheva, etc.

Russia: Zyuganov, Moscow Mayor Discuss 'Program of Action'

LD2406104296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0857 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Interfax) — Communist leader and presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov met with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov Monday but did not discuss political issues, Zyuganov told Interfax, adding that the meeting was his idea.

Instead, the two discussed a "program of action," with Zyuganov pointing out that the program of the current government has already led to "an almost complete financial-economic collapse," he said.

There will be a coalition government after the elections, Zyuganov said, promising to announce his future Cabinet on Monday in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament. "We believe that this coalition government should be one-third representatives from the Popular-Patriotic Bloc, one-third from the factions and political forces which are not part of our bloc, and another third from the current government, with an emphasis on those who know how to work," he said.

The meeting lasted an hour and a half, three times longer than planned, running over into a working meeting of the city government, an Interfax correspondent reports.

Luzhkov's possible appointment as Zyuganov's prime minister was not discussed, Zyuganov said. He had earlier named Luzhkov as a possible premier in his government.

This idea has been proposed during the year by many people in many settings, Zyuganov said. "He is a known figure, who has experience, knows how to work, and has support in the capital," he explained.

The two discussed issues of the national economy and possible measures for the improvement thereof, and how to provide a normal course of reforms in Russia, Zyuganov said. The two shared "very interesting ideas connected with improving the administration and work of the local city administration, especially since this work is being very actively executed," he said.

Russia: Zyuganov Hopes To Gain Lebed's Votes in Second Round

LD2206111896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 22 (Interfax) — Russian Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov hopes to win the second round of elections on July 3 by gaining the votes, cast for Gen. Aleksandr Lebed in the first round.

Lebed, the third finisher in the first round, joined the presidential team and became secretary of the Russian Security Council last Thursday.

"If ex-deputy prime minister Anatoliy Chubays, a campaigner for Yeltsin's re-election, continue to display such activity, all Lebed's supporters will vote for me one by one," Zyuganov predicted after laying a wreath at the tomb to the Unknown Soldier by the Kremlin Wall in Moscow today.

Commenting on the latest cabinet and presidential administration reshuffles, Zyuganov described them "as a struggle under the carpet and a show down on the eve of the second round of elections."

He also reported that he had met with Constitutional Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov Saturday morning to discuss ways of "keeping the law in the country," and "preparing and holding the second round of elections."

Asked about foreign policy and national security, Zyuganov stressed that if he wins the ballot, he will pursue "a policy of peace and good neighborhood." At the same time, he stressed the need "to restore the army's ability to fight so that it would protect the country as it ought to."

He admitted that if he prevails on July 3, he will have to see to it that all state structure systems, "function smoothly."

Russia: Workers To Be Fired If They Vote Against Zyuganov

LD2206091696 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 22 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent L. Salnikov] The staff of the Barnaul equipment engineering plant have sent a letter to the Russian president in which they describe how the plant's manager Vasiliy Rakhmanov is taking part in the election campaign. They say in their letter that he threatened to fire the staff en masse if they vote against Zyuganov. There is no doubt that the plant has serious financial problems: Its shops are empty three days a week and wages are not paid for weeks. However, the plant's manager shifts all the blame onto the present authorities headed by Yeltsin, says the letter signed by about 200 employees. [passage omitted]

Russia: Lebed Insists He Is No Threat to Democracy

LD2206224596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1638 GMT 22 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the last few days everyone has been following every step and every word of the new secretary of the Security Council, some paying great attention and others with anxiety. Since last 18 June, Aleksandr Lebed has invariably remained the hero of every political day. The decisiveness of action and the striking nature of the individual, the briefness of speech, and the figurativeness of his expressions are scoring an increasing number of political points for the general with incredible speed. At a meeting today with those who organized his election campaign, the former presidential candidate and the aide who is currently closest to the president spoke about his immediate plans.

[Begin recording] [Lebed] We will carry out a series of experiments, civilized, lawful experiments, not setting up a system of terror, but creating a system of law and order, strict law and order.

[Correspondent T. Aldoshina] That was Aleksandr Lebed talking about his immediate plans. He came to his comrades-in-arms today to explain why he agreed to work in Boris Yeltsin's team — first and foremost because he thinks that socialism and with it Gennadiy Zyuganov has lost historically.

[Lebed] Can socialism be built in Switzerland? Yes, it can. But such a small country can manage without such a disaster.

[Aldoshina] Among the comrades-in-arms of the new Security Council secretary there are former colleagues, officers from the 14th Army, heads of the regional branches of the Congress of Russian Communities, and of the Honor and Motherland association set up in January this year. Aleksandr Lebed said that he does not want to be in opposition, and grumble from the roadside, as he put it. Whether it be as secretary of the Security Council or aide to the president, in any event Aleksandr Lebed wants to have additional, very extensive powers, and even his own representatives on the spot. Aleksandr Lebed held a news conference for journalists today. True, he refused to give a direct answer to a question about the limits of his future powers.

[Unidentified correspondent] To what extent do you consider it necessary to expand your powers, for the Security Council was intended rather as a consultative body.

[Lebed] To a reasonable extent, to a point when there is order in the country, when all normal people will be free to go about their lives, and bandits will have something to fear.

[Correspondent] You will need to have not only the consent of the president, for all that, but also that of the State Duma. Are you willing to cooperate with deputies, in order to convince them that...

[Lebed, interrupting] They are my colleagues. We always come to an agreement, of course.

[Correspondent] Always?

[Lebed] Always, first in the corridors and then in the auditorium.

[Aldoshina] However, Aleksandr Lebed did not hide the fact that he would like to see Colonel General Igor Rodionov in the post of minister of defense, whom he regards as an elite general, head of the General Staff. He thinks that Sergey Glaziyev should have a job in Viktor Chernomyrdin's government. As far as Chechnya is concerned, the new secretary of the Security Council says, I do not like to launch an attack from unprepared positions. He will go to Chechnya after the second round of presidential elections. In general, Aleksandr Lebed does not want anyone to think that he represents some kind of threat to democracy.

[Lebed] They quickly made me out to be a monster that...[Lebed waves his hands in the air] [end recording] [video shows Lebed at the meeting, out in the street surrounded by people and at the news conference].

Russia: Lebed Meets Representatives of Election Teams

LD2206170696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1505 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Report by Igor Demin and Sergey Shishkin; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Security Council and presidential aide, has met representatives of his regional elections teams in a Lesnoy Gorodok holiday house near Moscow. [video shows Lebed addressing audience]

Aleksandr Lebed analyzed the situation in the run-up to the second round of the presidential elections. He said the Communist idea has every right to exist, but it has been implemented nowhere in the world.

[Lebed] "Can socialism be built in Switzerland? Yes, it can. However, such a small country can manage without such a disaster."

[Correspondent] General Lebed said that going back to the past could be the most tragic event for the country. Russia is in need of a new ideology.

[Lebed] "I have no reason to love you, Boris Nikolayevich. Not a single reason. However, you are the embodiment of this ideology, therefore, I am taking your side."

[Correspondent] The seven pages of Lebed's election manifesto have become part of Yeltsin's manifesto as regards the fight against crime. The general has uncompromising intentions to establish order in the country.

[Lebed] "We must work today, not to grumble from the roadside: If you had elected me, I would have done this and this. This is of paramount importance for me. This is not just a post, this is a cross to bear."

[Correspondent] The meeting supported Lebed with one abstention. Then at a news conference the secretary of the Security Council spoke about preparations to establish a new structure within the council, in particular about a project to create posts of the council's representatives in the provinces. The journalists asked how much power the general wanted.

[Lebed] "An optimum."

[Unidentified correspondent] "No more?"

[Lebed] "No more. I am not greedy."

[Correspondent] Commenting on the situation in Chechnya, the presidential aide said he wanted to visit Groznyy after 3 July.

Russia: Lebed Meets With Election Representatives

LD2206222696 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1358 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed today met the heads of his election teams and regional branches of the Honor and Homeland [Chest i Rodina] all-Russia movement, chaired by himself. Our correspondent Stanislava Molodnyakova is now back from the meeting with the details.

[Molodnyakova] The hall of the holiday house near Moscow where the meeting took place was full. General Aleksandr Lebed was given a standing ovation. Aleksandr Ivanovich was brief as usual and started with expressing his gratitude to those who had voted for him.

[Begin Lebed recording] I would like to say thank you to my voters for the trust they have put in me and to assure them that I will never abandon the promises and the program they believed in and voted for. Our country will be rich, beautiful, proud, and powerful. I have no doubt whatsoever about this. The Russian people made their choice on 16 June. My voters are strong and independent people, who are accustomed to respect and whose views are reckoned with. Therefore, there can be no talk about handing over the votes mechanically. They are human beings and should be held in respect and not taken hostage to any political games. There should be no trade in their votes. [end recording]

I have no particular reason to love you, the general told Boris Yeltsin during their meeting in the Kremlin before Lebed was appointed to the post of secretary of the Security Council. However, you are the embodiment of the new ideology, the ideology I accept, therefore I am taking your side. The president saw what I mean, Lebed said. Then the journalists were asked to leave the room, and a news conference followed shortly. Lebed had already said in his address that he intended to create a network of representatives of the secretary of the Security Council in the provinces. The meeting with journalists started with comments on this statement.

[Begin Lebed recording] There was an idea to create a system of representatives of the Security Council secretary in the provinces, in particular, in the regions where security is in danger. Authorities in the provinces are used to telling lies and ignoring laws and decrees. That is our life. Freedom must always be restricted by sensible laws. One should not confuse it with anarchy. This concerns everyone: Communists, democrats, and people with no party affiliation. There are many honest and decent people in our country. Unfortunately, they think that politics is dirty and stay out of it, often making the way for crooks. But this does not always need to be like that. [end recording]

The Security Council secretary shared his ideas about possible candidates for government posts with the journalists.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Who would you like to see as defense minister?

[Lebed] I personally favor Colonel General Rodionov, Igor Nikolayevich, head of the Academy of the General Staff. He is an excellent general.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you envisage [words indistinct] as a member of the cabinet of ministers?

[Lebed] Yes. I am trying to gather intelligent people. [end recording]

Lebed was not very specific about Chechnya. He only said that all wars end in peace negotiations sooner or later. Lebed himself has no intention to go there in the near future. I do not like to launch attacks from unprepared positions, the general said.

Russia: KRO Official Gives Election Forecast

LD2306212596 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1830 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] At least 60 percent of the 11 million people who voted for Aleksandr Lebed are likely to cast their votes for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Ekho Moskvy radio was told today by a leading official of General Lebed's old party.

Dmitriy Rogozin, chairman of the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], says that the people will vote for whom they see fit. Referring to the Yeltsin-Lebed alliance, Rogozin says: "If people begin to sense that a man for whom truth and order are not mere electoral slogans, but foremost tasks of his life and political existence has finally arrived on the scene, I am convinced they will vote for this alliance."

"I think that Aleksandr Lebed has not yet begun to act for real, as it were. He will probably make his moves next week, when he will tackle the composition of the Security Council for real. We know that he has already held consultations with all ministers in charge of power structures. I am absolutely convinced that our ministries, the ministry of internal affairs, the Federal Security Service, have all the necessary evidence against all organized crime bosses. What has so far been lacking is just one ingredient—political willpower, decisiveness, a willingness, as it were, to fight organized crime. Lebed's advent to power may radically alter the situation. Then we will be able to say how our electorate will divide up. I hope that as a minimum, 60 percent of our voters will, according to our forecast, vote for the Lebed-Yeltsin alliance," Rogozin says.

"This alliance, this union, has been made possible by the fact that the Russian president has acknowledged Lebed's program as the only possible way forward," Rogozin adds.

Referring to Lebed's recent rise, Rogozin says it is not "a coincidence." "We never made a big secret of the fact that we were engaged in consultations and talks with various politicians and political forces. Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed had two meetings with the president and a deal was struck. It is quite another matter that the president's team surely never expected such an excellent result, to get Lebed in the first round. Fifteen percent of the vote and third place? It is not simply the third place. Let us tell ourselves the truth today. Many of those who wanted to vote for Lebed cast their votes for Gennadiy Zyuganov or Yeltsin, because they did not believe that anyone apart from those two could reach the second round. That is why Lebed's real support is even broader and bigger than 15 percent," Rogozin says.

Rogozin recalls Aleksandr Lebed's allegations that a coup was being prepared and said the "procuracy must get to the bottom of this. However, it is a fact that Pavel Grachev did indeed gather his people around, although, incidentally, let me recall that some two weeks or a week before 16 June, I did listen to that interview which, incidentally, was printed in some papers, in which Grachev said that the Russian president could, of course, decide to dismiss him, but in such an eventuality the president of Russia ought to know that my people command various services, armies, corps, and military districts down to the regiment level. Well, I am not quoting, but the meaning of this is more or less that it was blackmail and direct pressure on the president. This can be likened to the efforts of those behind the failed coup attempt of 1991 who organized the State Committee for the State of Emergency, when the minister of defense threatens, de facto, to use force against the president. Regardless of whether the president is good or bad, he threatens the president. When Grachev's dismissal was imminent, he really did gather the generals and attempted to engineer a manifestation of dissatisfaction within the Armed Forces. It was not a matter of tanks taking to the streets, it was, rather, that Grachev turned out to be consistent, following his interview. The fact that he did gather these people around represents, as it were, generally speaking, a matter for the procuracy to investigate and that is why Lebed did not exaggerate the seriousness of the incident, but it is only the bodies that are competent to deal with this matter that will dot all the i's and cross all the t's here," Rogozin concludes.

Russia: Significance of Lebed-Chubays Link Seen

MM2406094796 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Jun 96 p 1

[Article by political observer Aleksandr Bykovskiy under the "Elections-96" rubric: "Once Upon a Time a Swan [Lebed], a Crayfish, and a Pike..." — headline refers to fable in which these three creatures got together to pull a cart; in the fable, they all pulled in different directions, so no progress was made]

[FBIS Translated Text] In recent days events have been taking place in the upper echelons of power that bear the imprint of scandal. First Deputy Prime Minister O. Soskovets, Defense Minister P. Grachev, Federal Security Service leader M. Barsukov, and presidential security service chief A. Korzhakov have been noisily sent into retirement. The wrongdoers are charged with allegedly trying to derail the presidential elections.

Basically we are looking at a serious crisis that has gripped the ruling clique, which on the eve of the second round of voting is trying to seize the initiative from the opposition and blame all the sins of the so-called reforms onto the most unpopular people on their "own side." At the same time efforts are being made to attract onto the president's side politicians who enjoy prestige among millions of Russians.

The presidential structures pin special hopes on retired General A. Lebed. The other day he received the high posts of secretary of the Security Council and the president's national security assistant. And Aleksandr Ivanovich stated that the people who gave him their votes in the first round will without fail vote for the incumbent president in the second. The general was thereby presumably linking his own political future to B. Yeltsin. The latter is even beginning to hint quietly that A. Lebed could be his successor. (It is noteworthy that only quite recently — about three weeks before the first round — the president, having invited his future successor for a two-hour talk, actually talked with him, so it was said, for only 15 minutes. He could not stand any more: Their characters are painfully similar. But now that the presidential seat has begun to rock, character is beside the point....)

As is usually the case, the so-called creative intelligentsia was the first to react to such a dramatic change in the president's cadre policy. Only six months ago one of its representatives, expressing his colleagues' opinion, asserted in print that when he looks at A. Lebed's face he can see for himself how the Russian nation is degenerating. But today, in a dramatically changed situation, the masters of arts are thronging to the general's press conferences in their haste to show their sympathies. And they are all there: R. Bykov, G. Volchek, G. Khazanov....

But let us come back to the question of the successor. As I recall, B. Yeltsin had one of those before: A. Rutskoy, who at one time did much to help Boris Nikolayevich win the presidential elections. True, when relations between the president and his vice president deteriorated, B. Yeltsin's closest colleagues started saying that he would have won the elections all the same even if his running mate had been a bucket of kerosene (Rutskoy is a pilot). But I don't think things were quite that simple for B. Yeltsin in June 1991. It was not for nothing that he took as his deputy the communist A. Rutskoy, and not the "democrat" G. Burbulis.

The president is trying to do something similar now by bringing A. Lebed, who has the reputation of a defender of the oppressed and injured, closer to the throne. Aleksandr Ivanovich's fierce criticism of the present authorities' policy has brought him special popularity. Addressing voters on the eve of the elections, he wrote in his propaganda materials that Russians will only be able to put their lives in order if they break the resistance of those who are currently profiting from their troubles and the disorder in Russia. And as soon as he became secretary of the Security Council the general promised to adopt the most rigorous measures against lawbreakers. The law-enforcement organs, he says, have long been waiting for the order to put their operational plans into practice.

And then the services in question were presented with just such an opportunity. On Wednesday, two activists of B. Yeltsin's election staff were arrested coming out of Government House with a large sum in foreign currency. (Notice, reader: In this country millions of people do not receive their wages for months on end, yet in the middle of Moscow hundreds of thousands of dollars are carried out of the government building in boxes without any accompanying documents.) One can imagine what virtually uncontrolled sums are at the disposal of all kinds of organizers of rock and other concerts in support of the president.

In the end the incident at the entrance to Government House ended with the activists of Yeltsin's staff — which is headed by the notorious A. Chubays — being allowed to go in peace, while the high-ranking security officials were forced to resign hot on the heels of P. Grachev, whom the Security Council secretary was pleased to compare to a prostitute.

But never mind about him — P. Grachev, the "best" defense minister in Russia's history. What is of far more importance for an understanding of what is happening is the sudden rapprochement between the defender of the oppressed and injured and A. Chubays, who has obviously taken heart since the Russian president's cadre innovations. The "father" of the voucher has even started saying that after a possible election victory the president will without fail bring back into the government all those with whom he began the "reforms." Presumably meaning Ye. Gaydar, A. Chubays, and so on, and so forth. That is to say, all those whose deeds the presidential candidate A. Lebed was so fond of denouncing in his election speeches.

Russia: Full Details of Election Results Published

MM2106152496 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 96 p 1

[Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission report: "Results of Russian Federation Presidential Elections 16 June 1996"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the Federal Law "On the Elections of the Russian Federation President" the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission officially declares the results of the elections of the Russian Federation president, obtained by totaling the figures contained in the returns from the electoral commissions of the Russian Federation components and the returns of precinct electoral commissions formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

Number of electoral commissions of Russian Federation components	89
Number of precinct electoral commissions of electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation	397
Number of returns of electoral commissions of Russian Federation components	89
Number of returns of precinct electoral commissions of electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation	397
Number of voters entered on the electoral role, including voters entered additionally on the roll	108,495,023
Number of ballot papers issued to precinct electoral commissions	105,669,479
Number of ballot papers issued to voters at polling places on election day	72,267,772
Number of ballot papers issued to voters voting outside voting premises	3,476,777
Number of canceled ballot papers	29,924,930
Number of ballot papers contained in portable ballot boxes (not counting ballot papers not in the proper form)	3,471,935
Number of ballot papers contained in fixed ballot boxes (not counting ballot papers not in the proper form)	72,115,204
Total number of valid ballot papers	74,515,019
Total number of ballot papers deemed invalid	1,072,120
Of which: number of ballot papers not containing marks in any of the boxes	175,922
Number of voters who took part in the elections	75,744,549
Number of voters who took part in the voting	75,587,139
Number of votes cast for each candidate	
Bryntsalov, Vladimir Alekseyevich	123,065
Vlasov, Yuriy Petrovich	151,282
Gorbachev, Mikhail Sergeyevich	386,069
Yeltsin, Boris Nikolayevich	26,665,495
Zhirinovskiy, Vladimir Volfovich	4,311,479

Zyuganov, Gennadiy Andreyevich	24,211,686
Lebed, Aleksandr Ivanovich	10,974,736
Fedorov, Svyatoslav Nikolayevich	699,158
Shakkum, Martin Lyutsianovich	277,068
Yavlinskiy, Grigoriy Alekseyevich	5,550,752
Number of votes cast for A.G. Tuleyev in electoral precincts where voting took place early and results were established by the precinct electoral commissions	308
Number of votes cast against all candidates	1,163,921
Number of voters who obtained exemption certificates from electoral precincts [to permit them to vote elsewhere]	1,062,068
Number of voters who voted at polling places on the basis of exemption certificates	852,043

The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission has declared the elections valid and effective.

[Signed] The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation

Russia: Electoral Commission Chairman Denies Vote-Rigging Charge

LD2106173996 Moscow NTV in Russian
1500 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest squabble arose today between the Central Electoral Commission and the leaders of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. It seems that the Communists are not very pleased with the result of the first round, and after three days of silence have now decided to talk of vote-rigging.

[Unidentified correspondent, over video of news conference] Today Nikolay Ryabov once again was locked in argument with his old opponent, Communist Viktor Ilyukhin. The head of the Duma's Security Committee had demanded an explanation from the Central Electoral Commission for why the number of voters in Russia had risen by 3 million in the past three years while the birth rate had, according to Communist Party data, fallen. The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission replied that any adding of names to the register was out of the question and that the imperfections of the system for compiling voter lists were to blame. Furthermore, Ryabov believes, it will be impossible to win that way.

[Ryabov] This has no affect whatsoever on the figures that decide the results of the election. This figure affects only one thing: The percentage that took part.

[Correspondent] In the opinion of Ryabov, Russia's electoral system does not permit squabbles and the Communists' eternal criticisms should not be taken to heart.

The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission is also irritated by a chronic shortage of money. According to him, the Central Electoral Commission has received to date only one-tenth of the funds it has been allocated, but it will do its duty to the end all the same.

[Ryabov] Whether the money comes or not, and even if we do not receive a penny we will hold the election in exact accordance with the law and within the deadline set. No one will stop us.

[Correspondent] The only unpleasant surprise, in the opinion of Ryabov, may be a sharp fall in voter activity. Therefore, the decision to hold the second round on Wednesday 3 July, looks the best. The proposal by the Communists in the Duma to vote on a Friday is, in the opinion of Ryabov, a naive provocation.

[Ryabov] If Friday was chosen then you will have a three-day weekend and you will not find a soul. They would all be gone. But Wednesday is that day in the middle of the week that allows people to be more or less organized psychologically.

[Correspondent] Yeltsin's team is also concerned by turnout. Political scientists taking part in the president's election campaign warned journalists today that the turnout could fall considerably in the second round. If even 60 percent of the electorate turn out Boris Yeltsin will probably win, but if no more than 58 percent vote, Zyuganov, whose voters are more organized, could win.

Russia: Aides Report 'Serious Violations' to Prosecutor General

LD2206155096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 22 (Interfax) — The presidential legal department reported Saturday to the Prosecutor General the most serious violations of election laws falling under Articles 132 and 133 of the criminal code (forgery, falsification of election documents, intentional wrong vote counting), Interfax was told at the office of presidential advisor Georgiy Satarov.

The report covers cases of intimidation, groundless use of ballot boxes outside polling stations, failures to carry out court verdicts registered in several regions by observers from the youth campaign "Elect and check".

The cases will be investigated under direct supervision from the office of the Prosecutor General, Interfax was told.

CIS: Crans Montana Meeting Addresses Eastern European Reforms

LD2306191896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 23 Jun 96

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland, June 23 (Itar-Tass) — The international economic meeting in Crans Montana, over on Sunday, has addressed among other things reforms in eastern and central European states and the CIS.

The meeting was attended by heads of state, prime ministers, businessmen and political scientists.

It was agreed that reforms in these states are makinh headway despite difficulties.

These regions, after an epoch of being walled off from the West by the "iron curtain, are increasingly attractive for Western investors.

An indication of this is the full membership of plenaries devoted to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The presidents of the two Central Asian republics, Nursultan Nazarbayev and Askar Akayev, starred at the meeting over three days, addressing the meeting, making statements and giving interviews.

Their showing at the meeting was success. The two republics had laid out to the West their brisk movement towards a market economy, rich resources and transparent policies.

Nazarbayev and Akayev have been awarded 1996 Crans Montana Prizes for their contribution to economic growth, democracy and regional stability.

The presidents told in interviews with Itar-Tass that they sought expansion of contacts with CIS members, including Russia, their strategic partner.

Russia was not a separate item on the agenda of this year's Crans Montana meeting as no Russian ministers attended it, with the presidential election in the background.

However, Russia's reforms were in the context when discussion concerned European and Central Asian states.

The U.N. secretary-general's aide Vladimir Petrovskiy told Itar-Tass that it was felt from the meeting's debates that Russia may have a great role in regional processes.

"It (Russia) is destinied for such a fate because of its geographic position. Whether Central Asia and Baltia is in question, eyes are often caught by Russia," Petrovskiy said.

Speakers at the meeting included the Bulgarian and Albanian presidents, prime ministers of Macedonia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Slovenia, Iranian foreign minister and the Swiss president.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 Jun

LD2206063596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0503 GMT 22 Jun 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW June 22 (Itar-Tass) — Newspapers highlight today the 55th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, which is observed in Russia for the first time as the Day of Memory and Mourning.

Krasnaya Zvezda carries an interview with Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, entitled "We Cannot But Take Into Account The Lessons Of The Great Patriotic War." Kulikov shares his views of the Second World War and the current situation in the Russian Army.

Rossiiskaya Gazeta correspondent in Belarus Vladimir Yefanov reports from Brest that all is ready for the activities, devoted to the 55th anniversary of the heroic deed of defenders of the Brest Fortress. On the occasion of the anniversary, delegations from all the CIS member states will come to that city. The Russian delegation is expected to be led by President Yeltsin.

Rossiiskaya Gazeta continues to publish materials dealing with the presidential elections. "Yeltsin is ahead of his team," Tamara Zamyatina writes. She stresses that the President heeded the appeal of his supporters "Fight, Boris," and is now firmly holding the initiative in his hands. Now the question arises: Will the electors, who voted for Yeltsin and Lebed, also unite, following the example of their leaders?

Commenting on the forecasts of sociologists about the outcome of the presidential elections, the newspaper's observer Aleksandr Batygin writes that no one's forecasts turned out to be absolutely accurate, but the names of the two candidates, who would be on the top of the list, were given correctly.

Aleksandr Lebed has all that a politician of large calibre needs, and he is quite ready to fulfil the tasks, set before him by the President, Lev Rokhlin, Chairman of the Duma Committee for Defence, said in an interview with Rossiiskaya Gazeta.

Izvestiya correspondent Sergey Chugayev, who has been following closely the behaviour of communists on the eve of the runoff election, comes to the following conclusion: "The leaders of the Communist Party realise that they let political initiative slip from their hands. In response to the unexpectedly corageous steps taken by Yeltsin, Zyuganov and his team are only going firmly on the defensive."

Speaking at a press conference on June 20, Anatoliy Chubays pointed to the connection between the arrest of two campaigners of President Yeltsin and an attempt on the life of Boris Fedorov, former chairman of the National Sports Fund. Izvestiya correspondent Sergey Leskov analyses in his article what kind of a connection it might be. He cites one of the versions, under which Fedorov was taken to the "White House" on the night of his arrest, where he was persuaded to "be cooperative", the way it was done later with Yevstafiyev, and only after that he was taken to an ordinary investigation prison in Odintsovo. The attempt on the life of Feodorov coincided in time with his intention to hold a press conference. This looks as a strange coincidence.

Komsomolskaya Pravda carries an article by Viktor Sokirko, which deals with the notorious box containing 500,000 dollars, which was allegedly confiscated by two guards of the "White House" from the two Yeltsin's campaigners. Sokirko does not give coherent answers to all the question that arise in connection with the whole story. He only quotes General Lebed as saying that "it is shady business."

Russia: Primakov Offers Views on NATO, CIS, East Europe, Japan

LD2006191496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 20 Jun 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 20 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov strongly objected to NATO's enlargement eastwards.

"Can we welcome the deployment of nuclear missiles close to our borders whose flying time is even shorter than that of medium-range missiles that have been destroyed?" he asked rhetorically.

Primakov said that Russia is prepared to discuss the issue but "Russia is not the kind of country and the time is not right to agree to the expansion of NATO."

What is needed is dialog and compromise, he said. The compromise should not cover only the movement of the NATO infrastructure towards the Russian border, Primakov thinks. Other issues must be negotiated, he said.

Russia could have good relations with NATO on a sound basis with the alliance not expanding but making an evolution, Primakov said.

Certain signs of evolution are visible, he said.

In particular, the European element in NATO has been growing, Primakov said. Furthermore, the alliance is changing its sole function of collective defense against global dangers to joint activities in eliminating regional dangers, he said.

"These changes must be watched closely. The more NATO changes in a way favorable for peace and stability, the more Russia will be reassured that NATO will not move its infrastructure towards our territory, the larger the incentives for us to develop relations with the alliance," Primakov said.

In developing these relations Russia understands that a non-expanding NATO could be a very important element of European security, he said.

Primakov also spoke of relations with Russia's former cold war opponents.

"We brought relations with them to normal. Simultaneously unrealistic calls were made for a strategic alliance with them or for entering the club of civilized countries at any cost," he said.

It soon became obvious that "this would not serve Russia's interests at this stage of its development but could result in Russia losing its independent role in foreign policy," Primakov said.

For this reason, he explained, Russia started working for equal partnership relations with the West. "We cannot be in anyone's tow repeating somebody else's movements. Russia is a great country which has its own foreign policy," Primakov said.

This new line proved fruitful, he feels. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and himself agreed in Helsinki last February that the two sides will not spring surprises on each other, will not use the accomplished fact tactics, will discuss issues of interest to both of them and, wherever possible, find solutions, and never allow the situation to degenerate into confrontation where solutions are not possible.

"These understandings are essentially working in our relations. I felt it on numerous occasions at my meetings with Christopher for five months and in numerous telephone talks with him," Primakov said.

The relations with European countries, especially with France and Germany, are fairly good and this encourages all members of the Western club to improve relations with Russia, he said.

Primakov dismissed allegations made by Western partners that Russia is using imperial tactics in imposing integration on former Soviet republics.

The opposition to integration processes in the CIS as well as the NATO expansion is "an irritant in Russia's relations with its former cold war opponents," he said.

There is an objective need in the integration, Primakov argued. "But there is a limit, the USSR cannot be reinstated," he said. "The very formulation of this goal is counterproductive because in this way we would cause relations with numerous countries in the former USSR's territory to deteriorate and obstruct the actual integration processes," Primakov felt.

"Integration will proceed at different rates in different directions," he said. In particular, the Belarussian-Russian community is the highest level of integration now, the formation of a Customs Union of Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan and the creation of a Payments Union by the four is another level and the relations with the other CIS member states make the lowermost level thus far, Primakov explained.

The Foreign Ministry regards relations with CIS member nations as its top priority and has a mandate for this from the Russian president, he said.

The ministry will work for the stepping up of integration processes and support centripetal trends while the sovereignty of former USSR's republics is to be maintained and for resolving conflicts inside the CIS, Primakov said.

The best diplomats should work with CIS member nations, he emphasized. "We will do our best to make this work both prestigious and materially rewarding," Primakov said.

Primakov also admitted that Russia's cooperation with East European nations has lost momentum.

These countries are West-oriented but they have been disappointed in their expectations about receiving everything they need for an economic upsurge from the West, he said.

"People in East European countries understand that they should work in two directions and we must make use of this," Primakov continued.

Russia's dealings are strictly above board, Moscow trying to have its positions in those countries without opposition to the West, he said.

Primakov believes that the territorial dispute between Russia and Japan cannot be resolved along the lines proposed by either country now.

The minister did not rule out the possibility of using the same approach as in relations between Japan and China. "China suggested setting the territorial dispute between the two countries for future generations to tackle and the Japanese agreed," Primakov recalled.

"This approach could be used in the Russian-Japanese relations. It will allow the two countries to make progress in other fields," he said.

Russia: 'Discrepancy' Seen in NATO, Russian Views of NATO Session

MM2106135696 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 21 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Sorokin: "NATO's Vague Allusions Have an Ominous Undertone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — By adopting the latest portion of "historic" documents in Brussels, the heads of the NATO countries' defense departments have amplified and clarified the decisions of the North Atlantic Alliance Council session held at the beginning of June in Berlin.

There is no irony in the use of the word "historic," since the need to reform NATO was stated.

But those who were trying to demonstrate the need to transform the North Atlantic military-political bloc into a political union after the breakup of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union have unfortunately no reason to rejoice at the moment: The nature of NATO, its adherence to its former aims and tasks, and the need for the further strengthening of transatlantic military-strategic cooperation are not in any doubt. So what is prompting the bloc's military-political leadership to reform it?

Let us look closely at the final communique of the council session at the level of ministers of defense: "Collective defense continues to be the alliance's main function, but the challenges of today concerning our security and stability throughout Europe are far more diverse and more complex than those which faced NATO in the first 40 years of its existence."

Well, there you go! What are these "challenges," which make the Cold War, with its tough nuclear confrontation between two blocs, pale into insignificance? Who is issuing these challenges if NATO admits that today it has no set enemies? Has the Russian side, with whom the North Atlantic Alliance intends to strengthen partnership relations, been informed of these challenges?

Unfortunately, the final communique provides no answer to these questions.

But it is not all that difficult to find the reasons prompting the military-political leadership to start reforming the bloc. There are two obvious ones. The first is to prepare the North Atlantic Alliance for imminent expansion, when a number of Central and East European countries will join it. The second, equally significant reason, is to enable NATO, without formally changing the aims declared during its creation, to free itself of the chains which have recently been fettering it in the form of the concept of the "bloc's zone of responsibility," which restricts the sphere of its activity to the territories of the countries in it and adjoining seas.

In this connection, the singling out of a European component in the NATO joint armed forces in the form of multinational task forces which can operate under the command of the Western European Union essentially in any part of the world, can no doubt be seen as evidence of the desire of the North Atlantic Alliance to assume the role of protector and guarantor of democratic freedoms throughout the world.

So how has the Russian side, personified by P. Grachev, reacted to such plans? High-ranking representatives of the North Atlantic Alliance have noted Russia's unchanging negative attitude to the problem of the bloc's eastward expansion. However, from what they have said, this attitude is no longer being seen, either by Moscow or by them, as an obstacle on the path of the development of cooperation.

This is a strange assessment of the Russian position, to say the least, given that the text of P. Grachev's speech at the meeting has it in black and white: "The expansion of NATO and the strengthening of cooperation with Russia are two incompatible processes."

Attempts to sort out this discrepancy have led nowhere. NATO officials have avoided giving a straight answer, implying that they might have failed to hear such a statement by the Russian representative. P. Grachev himself had left Brussels by then.

Russia: Duma's Yushenkov on Need for Closer Ties With NATO

LD2106142296 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1110 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Breaking down the barriers of lack of trust and mutual suspicion dating back to the Cold War period, several leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty organization have been insisting on the need to establish closer ties between Russia and NATO. This crucial question was examined by our commentator Vyacheslav Alekseyev and member of the lower house of Russian parliament defense committee, Sergey Yushenkov.

Our commentator asked Mr. Yushenkov to comment on the reason why Russia and NATO find it hard to work together. This is how Mr. Yushenkov responded to the question.

[Begin Yushenkov recording in Russian fading to English report] There is one crucial and purely psychological factor which seems to be playing a more visible role in the political life of Russia. NATO is seen as a potential adversary by Russia, said Mr. Yushenkov. In that context the expansion of NATO eastward will undoubtedly undermine Russia in the strategic military sphere. But if both sides continue to look at one another in that light the earlier accords, like SALT-1 and START-2, as well as Weapons Reduction in Europe agreement and several others, may lose their sense.

In the view of Mr. Yushenkov both Russia and NATO ought to, in the post-communist era, reject the split of confrontation and meet one another halfway in all spheres of cooperation, especially in the military field. The joint program of Partnership for Peace is a good beginning. According to Mr. Yushenkov the program is being partially implemented but with certain difficulty and without [?fanfare] in the press.

What is slowing down the implementation of the Partnership for Peace program? Mr. Yushenkov explains. The old way of thinking, the old mentality still have a firm hold on us, says Mr. Yushenkov. Both Russia and the west are victims of that virus, said Mr. Yushenkov. There still exists ideological stereotypes within the walls of NATO toward Russia, and such stereotypes are being assisted by the rise in Russia of great power sentiments and attempts by some nationalist activists to resurrect the image of the West as an enemy. However, as we approach the 21st century there is a need to embrace a new ideology and to have a fresh understanding of the interrelationship of our multi-polar but a single world, concluded Mr. Yushenkov.

Russia: NATO Welcomes Lebed Appointment as Security Chief

LD2106183396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) - NATO had good things to say about the assignment of General Aleksandr Lebed to the post of Russian Security Council Secretary and presidential national security adviser in Russian President Boris Yeltsin's administration.

General Secretary Javier Solana and the NATO leadership believe that what is good for Russia is good for NATO, top NATO aide Chris Donneli told Interfax in a telephone interview from Brussels.

NATO is impressed with Lebed's desire to make the Russian army strong and controllable, he said. It is unthinkable and dangerous for Russia's army to be weak and torn by contradictions. That is simply dangerous, he said.

As for Lebed's statement that it will cost NATO $250 billion to expand eastward, Donneli said that no one knows of this number, but that the expansion will not be free, although this is really something for new Central and Eastern European members to be thinking about.

Donneli said that Lebed was invited to visit NATO headquarters at the start of 1996, but declined due to his busy schedule.

Lebed may be invited again, in accordance with his new status, he said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin, Gore Discuss Cooperation, Coming Election

LD2106174096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) - Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin tonight had a telephone conversation with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, sources in the Russian governmental apparatus told Interfax on Friday.

Chernomyrdin and Gore considered the preliminary agenda of the next session of the Russian-U.S. Commission on Economic and Scientific-and-Technological Cooperation planned for July, the sources said.

Chernomyrdin and Gore are the commission's co-chairmen.

They also discussed the socio-economic situation in Russia in the runup to the second round of the Russian presidential elections, the same sources said.

Russia: Gore, Chernomyrdin Commission To Meet in Moscow 14-16 Jul

LD2206154496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 22 (Interfax) — The Russian-U.S. Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation will hold its next session in Moscow on July 14-16, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a news conference in the House of Russian Government on Saturday.

He said he had discussed the session's agenda with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore on Friday evening.

The commission co-chaired by Chernomyrdin and Gore will consider a broad range of problems regarding Russian-U.S. economic cooperation and the reciprocal access to the two countries' markets, Chernomyrdin said, adding that he saw the commission's performance as "very successful."

Regarding his participation in the G-8 summit in Lyon at the end of June, Chernomyrdin said he planned to meet with the leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations and the heads of the key international financial and economic organizations. He in particular plans to meet with International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus and World Bank President James Wolfensohn.

Chernomyrdin said that during these meetings the sides would focus on Russia's broader integration with the international economic system.

Chernomyrdin will take part in the Lyon summit instead of President Boris Yeltsin who needs to stay in Russia in the run-up to the second round of the Russian presidential elections slated for July 3.

Russia: Yeltsin's Visit to Belarus To Help Integration

LD2106165196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Belarus slated to begin on Saturday will be of great importance for the implementation of the Russian-Belarusian accords regarding deeper integration between the two countries, Dmitriy Ryurikov, Russian presidential adviser on international issues, told Interfax on Friday.

The Supreme Council of the Community between Russia and Belarus will hold a session in Brest fortress on Saturday afternoon to consider problems regarding the equal rights of Belarusian and Russian residents to employment in Russia and Belarus respectively, he said. The Supreme Council will also consider measures for exchange of dwelling space among residents of the two countries.

Russia and Belarus will consider the merger between the two countries' transport and energy systems and the unification of their credit-monetary systems during the Supreme Council's session and tete-a-tete talks between the two presidents.

Russia and Belarus may sign several bilateral intergovernmental agreements on these issues, Ryurikov said.

During their meeting, Yeltsin and his Belarusian counterpart Alyaksandr Lukashenka are likely to concentrate on "synchronizing the pace of reforms in the two countries of the Community," Ryurikov said.

The Executive Committee of the Russian-Belarussian Community held its third session chaired by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow on Tuesday. The Executive Committee discussed problems relating to free exchange of residential space within the Community. This is important for exchange of homes by relatives and for those moving to work in another country. Several thousand Russian and Belarusian residents are now working on the territory of each other's country.

The Executive Committee also considered joint actions to deal with the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and coordinated measures that need funding in 1996.

Those at the session also discussed the creation of a single customs space with a unified management system and the creation of a unified meteorological service in the Community.

The Executive Committee supported the proposals by the Belarussian and Russian standardization services concerning the unification of standards. The Executive Committee also supported plans for interaction between the two countries' statistics services for the creation of a unified statistics organ.

The Belarusian and Russian ministers on cooperation between the two countries have signed an agreement on cooperation for the creation of optico-mechanical and test equipment for the production of large integrated circuits.

Russia: President Yeltsin Leaves Brest for Kaliningrad

LD2206172196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1652 GMT 22 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brest, 22 Jun — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, after taking part in a ceremony at Brest Fortress on the occasion of Remembrance Day and attending the session of the Supreme Council of the Community of Belarus and Russia, flew from Brest to Kaliningrad today. On his arrival there, he will continue his series of working trips around the country as part of his election campaign.

The preliminary program of the visit of the Russian Federation president to Kaliningrad envisages that this evening already he will lay a wreath at the memorial to "the 1,200 Guards." On 23 June Yeltsin will visit the Russian Navy base at Baltiysk. A visit to rural areas of Kaliningrad Region and laying of the foundation stone of a church on Victory Square in Kaliningrad are also planned.

Russia: Stroyev: Yeltsin's Visit to Brest Vital for Integration

LD2206203296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 22 Jun 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BREST, June 22 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Brest and his participation in memorial ceremonies marking the 55th anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the former Soviet Union are a confirmation that "the historic roots of commonness between our peoples are alive, which is extremely important for the development of integration" between Russia and Belarus, Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev said.

In an interview with Itar-Tass on Saturday, Stroyev, who is also the governor of the Orlov region, said that Brest and Oryol are twin cities. "Our lands went through the same tragedy during the war. In 1941, an Oryol infantry division defended the Brest fortress and almost of its soldiers died here," he added.

Stroyev said he had had a meeting with Belarusian parliament chairman Semyon Sharetskiy to discuss the role of lawmakers in integration processes.

Elections in Russia "have put integration processes on the back burner. That's why today's meeting of the Supreme Council of the Russian-Belarusian Community, which was attended by lawmakers, is so important."

Stroyev said the council decided to work out joint programmes for financial and industrial groups, discussed the Chernobyl problem and measures to rehabilitate the Brest fortress as a war memorial.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Speaks on Russian-Belarusian Cooperation

MM2106131496 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 21 Jun 96 p 3

[Unattributed report from "Commonwealth" section: "Russia and Belarus: Cooperation Continues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The program of priority measures for the implementation of the treaty between Russia and Belarus on the intensification of integration is being fulfilled, except for a number of specific issues, Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, has stated, opening the third session of the Russian and Belarusian Community executive committee. At the same time, the premier stressed, "today we must go further and pay more attention to the economic basis of our cooperation."

Viktor Chernomyrdin said that there are interesting proposals on specific bilateral economic programs, the synchronization of economic reforms, and the creation of single organs of management.

Russia: Moscow Gives 8 Billion Rubles to Belarus Chernobyl Victims

LD2206193296 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] To help overcome the aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe Belarus will receive 8 billion Russian rubles in aid. The decision on this was passed at a session of the Supreme Council of the Community of Russia and Belarus in Brest. As Sergey Medvedev, the press secretary of the Russian head of state, announced, it is envisaged that all citizens of Belarus who suffered from the Chernobyl catastrophe will be able to undergo free treatment at Russian health resorts. Medvedev said that at the session it had also been decided to grant $300,000 each from Russia and Belarus for the restoration of the memorial complex of the Brest Hero Fortress.

Russia: Moscow Opposes Resumption of Sanctions Against Serbs

LD2106134696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) — Moscow has a very negative attitude to proposals to resume sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro or the Bosnian Serbs, a high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official told Interfax Friday.

He was speaking in response to foreign media reports that the United States and its allies are seeking to reimpose limited sanctions against Belgrade if Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic fails to convince Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to resign within two weeks.

"The international community lifted sanctions against Bosnian Serbs and suspended them against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is counterproductive to resume them," said the source.

He described proposals to reimpose the sanctions as another attempt of "political intimidation and pressure on the Serb side."

The source pointed out that Russia would like Karadzic to quit politics.

"But we are not extremists in this respect," said the diplomat. "The Karadzic issue should not be tied to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or President Milosevic, who is making a large contribution to peace and stability in the Balkans," he said.

Russia: Diplomat on Results of Voting by Russians in Baltics

LD2106142196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) — The rise to power of Communists in Russia may only aggravate the position of Russian speakers in the Baltic countries, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax on Friday in comment on the results of the first round of the presidential elections, when the absolute majority of Russian citizens in the Baltic states backed Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov.

"These people do not understand that the Communists offer nothing of real assistance to their fellow-countrymen abroad," said the diplomat.

He believes that "the political pressure and threats which the Communists will surely resort to will only enhance the negative attitude to the Russian speakers in the Baltic countries."

He described as inconsistent the allegations by some Baltic leaders that the voting results among Russian speakers may force these states to intensify the process of integration into Western European structures, including NATO.

"The voting results bear no threat to the national security and sovereignty of the Baltic countries. This link is an invention," said the diplomat.

He said that in the Communist election program he did not see provisions which show any intention to use force to make the Baltic countries join the Russian Federation. "There are no crazy people in Russia," said the source.

The voting results in the Baltic countries "do not reflect the whole spectrum of political sentiments among Russian speakers," he said. The source said that around 14 percent of potential voters took part in the elections of the Russian president in Latvia, 27 percent in Estonia and 28 percent in Lithuania.

"The absolute majority of those who took part in the voting are pensioners in the most difficult position, and therefore, they are the most politically engaged category of the population," the diplomat said.

Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Lays Wreath at Grave of Unknown Soldier

LD2206093096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0917 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 22 (Interfax) — President Yeltsin laid a wreath to the Grave of the Unknown Soldier at the wall of the Moscow Kremlin on June 22 which marks an anniversary of the beginning of the war between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, acting Defense Minister and Chief-of-General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov, Director of the Federal Border Guard Service Andrey Nikolayev and Minister of Internal Affairs Anatoliy Kulikov, as well as World War II vets, accompanied Yeltsin to the Kremlin wall.

As soon as the wreath-laying ceremony is over, Yeltsin is planning to leave Moscow for the city of Brest whose fortress was the first to engage the Nazi troops and rebuffed, for more than a month, enemy attacks, back in 1941. Yeltsin is planning to make a speech at a memorial rally in Brest.

He is due to leave Brest for "a business trip" to the Russian enclave on the Baltic Sea coast, Kaliningrad.

Russia: Yeltsin Visits Kaliningrad Region

LD2306084796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0529 GMT 23 Jun 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KALININGRAD, Russia's westernmost region, June 23 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin who arrived in Kaliningrad, a city separated from the rest of Russia by Lithuania and Belarus, on Saturday evening, laid flowers on the same day at the monument to "1200 Guardsmen" in one of the central squares of the city.

Talking with veterans who were waiting for him in front of the memorial, Yeltsin told them about his trip to Brest where he, together with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, participated in a ceremony at the Brest Fortress on the occassion of Commemoration and Grief Day and in a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Community of Belarus and Russia.

Yeltsin stressed that the Veterans Law will be carried out in three stages. He said that the implementation of the first one has already started. Experience of the president's trips to Russian regions showed that local authorities shoulder the main expenses in many cases. Yeltsin advised head of the Kaliningrad Region administration Yuriy Matochkin that he should follow suit of many other subjects of the Russian Federation and try to implement the Veterans Law with his own forces.

The federal centre will render every aid and support, the head of state assured. In turn, Matochkin informed Yeltsin that the region decided to start realising the first stage of the law in the latter half of the year. According to the regional head, this measure will cost 4.5 billion roubles.

Talking with a 1,000-strong crowd of Kaliningraders who gathered in front of the memorial, Yeltsin displayed interest in the most pressing problems of the region. It turned out that most Kaliningraders dream that their region, apart from the status of a special economic zone, would gain a status of a free economic zone.

Yeltin noted that while the federal centre and the Kaliningrad Region already concluded an agreement on establishing a special economic zone and an appropriate presidential decree was signed, there is no, so far, All-Russian law on free economic zones, the draft of which is now under consideration of the lower house of the Russian parliament.

"I press on the State Duma, and we insist. And I believe that the Duma will adopt it after all," Yeltsin noted, adding that it is impossible to start realising plans on free economic zones, including in the Kaliningrad Region, without adoption of such a law.

Kaliningraders assured Yeltsin that they intend to back him in the second round of the presidential elections. "March only forward. Not a step back," members of the crowd shouted. Yeltsin devoted also much time to elder residents of the city.

For instance one Kaliningrad woman told the Russian leader that, following her husband's death, she became a vagabond in her own city where she was born and lived all her life. Yeltsin instructed Governor Matorchkin to study her difficult situation and report him at once.

Such efficiency in tackling questions evoked a stormy happy response among the crowd, and Yeltsin left the square to continued applause.

Nevertheless, the main part of Yeltsin's working programme will fall on Sunday. Early in the morning, Yetsin will go to the city of Baltiysk, former Pilau, where there is the Baltic naval base. The president will visit it, go to ships and will meet sailors.

Then, the head of state will visit several agricultural districts of the region. Following this, he will participate in a stone-laying ceremony of a Christ the Saviour Cathedral in the Victory Square in Kaliningrad.

Yeltsin will lay down a capsule with soil taken from under the Christ the Saviour Cathedral which is rising up in Moscow.

Yeltsin plans to return to Moscow in the afternoon.

Russia: Yeltsin Addresses Crew at Baltic Naval Base

LD2306123396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1056 GMT 23 Jun 96

[By Andrei Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BALTIYSK, Kaliningrad Region, June 23 (Itar-Tass) — "The Kaliningrad Region is Russian land, and nobody should entertain any doubts on this score," President Boris Yeltsin said in the city of Baltiysk, speaking to the crew of the Nastoichivy torpedo-boat in the Russian Baltic naval base.

"As President I tell all the Kaliningraders: we shall not permit any encroachments on this land," he emphasised.

Noting that the Kaliningrad Region is separated from the rest of the country by two states and three borders, Yeltsin stressed: "This means only one thing: there should be given more attention to Kaliningraders, more care and more support".

The region was called "Russia's gate to the west" from the days of yore, the president continued. The federal leadership wants that not a winding road would lead to this gate "but a broad modern motorway".

The region was traditionally a base for the Russian merchant and fishing fleet. It is outdated now. But there are even now opportunities to start reviving the famous Kaliningrad fleet, the Russian chief executive continued.

Expressing gratitude to sailors and all the Russian military, Yeltsin emphasised that, despite difficulties and household adversities, they serve the Homeland with honour.

Sentiments are now radically changing with respect to the Russian Armed Forces, the president said. Nationwide love for soldiers and sailors and respect for Russian officers are reviving.

"Society is turning its face to protectors of the Homeland, and this wave of people's sympathy will be buttressed by a strong state policy in the sphere of defence," Yeltsin stressed.

The head of state pins special hopes on Alexander Lebed who was recently appointed secretary of the Russian Security Council and the president's national security assistant. "His aggressivenss, professionalism and experience will help to make the Russian Armed Forces worhty of Russia," the president stressed.

The Russian leader expressed conviction that Russians will recall the present difficult time several years later as "the most interesting" period. This is time which will suprise the world with its kaleidoscopic changes, he added. The president expressed confidence that Russia and Russians have a good future, and it is not far-off.

"Experts all over the world already now speak about a close Russian economic miracle," Yeltsin said. "Its foundations have been laid down: freedom and order — these are two mainstays for such a future".

Speaking of the second round of the presidential elections on July 3, the head of state expressed hope that Kaliningraders "will choose future and not the past, will choose forward movement and not a new spiral of revolutions and upheavals".

"The victory in the second round is necessary not only for us, it is necessary for our children and grandchildren. Let us go forward," Yeltsin called. "We shall win together."

Russia: Chernomyrdin Holds News Conference 22 Jun

LD2206232396 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1743 GMT 22 Jun 96

[News conference by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with unidentified correspondents at the Government House in Moscow on 22 June; Chernomyrdin is flanked by two unidentified aides; correspondents' questions are summarized by female voice-over — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Aide] So, esteemed gentlemen, we are starting the news conference.

[Chernomyrdin] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen! I would like to start by pointing out that today is 22 June, the day of commemoration and grief, on which we all pay tribute to millions of our fellow countrymen who gave their lives for freedom and independence of our great homeland. May their glorious memory live for ever. Let this day become an occasion on which all generations of Russian people come together as one, a day of accord and peace.

The official results of voting in the first round of presidential elections have been summed up. One can state with all the confidence at one's disposal that the country has made a tremendous step along the path of a stable and genuinely democratic development. However, we cannot and must not rest on our laurels, or allow ourselves to relax. There must be no euphoria, because the struggle for Russia's future is continuing.

This is a struggle literally for every individual, for every voter and every vote.

The people of Russia will make a decisive choice in the second round, one that will determine their destiny. For me its significance is extremely clear, first and foremost because I, as nobody else, know how vitally important it is for Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to win.

Let me say a few words about our most immediate and specific tasks, those of the government first and foremost. In the first place it is to set the budget to rights. We must ensure a precise and absolute fulfillment of budget indebtedness timescales, including wages, pensions, and various benefits; meeting the needs of the Armed Forces; organization of summer holidays for children and juveniles. We will work to increase revenue from production and make sure that all those who are due to pay taxes do so, because it is precisely therein that the key lies in solving all budget problems. Our other task is to prepare a draft budget for 1997.

In the third place, I have set a task that a package of all decisions and binding documents necessary to start enterprise reforms should be worked out within the next 10 days.

The next task, no less important, is for a state commission in charge of elaborating a program of social reforms for the 1996-2000 period to commence work as soon as possible, so that the draft can be submitted by 1 October.

The renewal of the presidential team at the decisive stage of the presidential race was planned in advance. As you will recall, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin himself spoke about this repeatedly and unequivocally during his trips. There was a single reason for this — the objectives of state policy formulated in his election manifesto.

As for that incident that you all know about, I have to and am duty bound to say bluntly that there have been no putsches or coups, none. However, glaringly irresponsible actions bordering on cynicism were allowed to take place. Such manifestations of indiscipline, especially where servants of state are concerned and all the more so where servicemen are concerned, are intolerable. The president would be failing in his duty if he were to have refrained from taking such measures.

As for Oleg Nikolayevich Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the government, he has positive qualities. Like anyone, he has some shortcomings. This is how I would put it: The bulk and complexity of the tasks he has been entrusted with have at a certain point in time begun to diverge with his ideas of what must be done and how we must go about it.

I think Oleg Nikolayevich will draw the necessary conclusions. He is a capable person. I hope that he will understand everything the right way. There is only one principle — professionalism. The creation of a professional government service is just as major an objective, in terms of the work that lies ahead, as, for example, the transition to a professional army. It is precisely in this context that one should regard all the president's recent personnel decisions.

[Aide] Are there any questions, please?

[Voice-over] Reuter Television: Can you say for certain what kind of government reshuffle there will be?

[Chernomyrdin] For me the question of government personnel is, of course, a very important question, especially as we are already making preparations. In due course there will be a new president. The old government will surrender its powers to this new president. However, there will not be any.... [pauses] I am not suggesting that those members of my government who are present here today, listening to my news conference, should take into their heads to pack their bags. This is a normal occurrence. There is enough work for everybody.

[Voice-over] Viktor Stepanovich, how do you evaluate the rumors that the trio who were sacked were connected with the mafia?

[Chernomyrdin] I simply regard this as impossible, that such people in such jobs, in such.... [pauses] That is totally over the top. I would not believe this. I never paid any attention to this. It is not my responsibility.

[Voice-over] A question from Channel One: Can you comment on reports that the security service was trying to extract compromising information about you from the two detainees?

[Chernomyrdin] I would also be very keen to find out what they wanted to extract from these people and precisely what it had to do with Chairman of the Government Chernomyrdin. I would very much like to find this out, very much indeed. I have to say that this is not the first time that they have tried to get something on Chernomyrdin, on him, tried to find something on him. They did not find anything and never will, because there is nothing to be found. I cannot regard it in any way other than as a base act, primarily as far as the country is concerned. I am less concerned with myself here. To engage in such doings at such a time is a base act as far as the country is concerned.

[Voice-over] Radio Liberty: Will the security services be reformed?

[Chernomyrdin] I think the time may have come. Given such a country as ours and such a time as now, these reforms had to happen and the work of these services had to be improved further.

[Voice-over] REUTER: Security Council Secretary Lebed has said that he expects a financial crisis in September or October. Do you share his point of view?

[Chernomyrdin] Did he say that? I cannot say that because it will not happen. Aleksandr Lebed has only just come in. I think he is gathering information, finding out more detail, delving deeper into the economic situation. He will not have thoughts of that kind.

[Voice-over] A question from Voice of America: Is it possible that Anatoliy Chubays might return to the government?

[Chernomyrdin] As for Chubays and all this speculation that there has been — he is at work now. He is working outside the government. He is taking part in the election campaign. He is heading the analysis group. Does he himself want.... [pauses] Is there any need to invite Chubays to return to the government? At the moment I do not see any such need.

[Voice-over] A Japanese newspaper: Viktor Stepanovich, to what extent does foreign investment depend on Boris Yeltsin's victory in the election?

[Chernomyrdin] Elections, correct elections, will resolve many problems for us. A correct choice will resolve many problems. We have the potential to attract $10-12 billion of foreign investment per annum. I am convinced that this will happen — on precisely that scale.

[Voice-over] Viktor Stepanovich, what does your intuition tell you? Could the prime minister be replaced after the election?

[Chernomyrdin] Intuition — and not just intuition — suggests to me, or tells me that this will be a very important decision, for the country first and foremost. It is not so simple at the moment to take over everything, and not because I am Chernomyrdin and something frightens me. I am just as normal a person as everybody else. I know that people do not join the government for ever. I do not think that we are in such a position today that we can slam the book shut, or turn over the page and start from scratch. That cannot happen. I do not think that will happen with the government, and the members of the government.

[Voice-over] Viktor Stepanovich, if Boris Nikolayevich does lose the second round, will he lay down the post of president?

[Chernomyrdin] The president of Russia will be the one who wins the second round of the election. There cannot be any other approach whatsoever to this. Nobody can take anything or give it away without the say-so of the law, without an election. Russian citizens alone will make the choice and Russian citizens must make their choice. They will make their choice.

Let me take advantage of this opportunity to appeal once again to all Russian citizens. A serious choice is facing all of us, facing the country. The country's future will be decided on 3 July. I ask you, I call on you all to vote for the president, for a president who wants to continue reform, for a president who will create conditions for the reform to be completed, so that nobody ever takes it into their head to stage a revolution.

This is a very serious matter. It is very serious for all of us, for the future. Life is hard for us at the moment. It is very hard for us at the moment. We have an obligation to do our utmost to guarantee political stability and economic stability; to ensure that Russia's system and conditions are such that every individual is protected. This means a rule-of-law state. That is what we are doing. That is what we are choosing. That is what we need, esteemed Russian citizens.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Rules Out Chubays Joining Government

LD2206124796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 22 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TAS correspondents Oleg Velichko, Gennadiy Yezhov, and Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Jun (Itar-Tass) — The question of Anatoliy Chubays joining the government "has never been and is not on the agenda," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at today's news conference in the Government building. He also stressed that, as a prime minister, he personally "does not see any need for it."

The head of government described Chubays as a man "possessed of all the necessary qualities of an economist." "He is a capable and intelligent economist and organizer," Chernomyrdin said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Letter Informs Duma About Recent Cadre Changes

LD2106161696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1427 GMT 21 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 21 Jun (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today informed the State Duma deputies in writing about the cadre changes in the Russian Government in March and June. The information about leaders who have been released from their posts or appointed to new posts is contained in a letter distributed at the Duma from the prime minister and addressed to Gennadiy Seleznev, the chamber's chairman. This morning the deputies invited Viktor Chernomyrdin to address them and explain the latest cadre changes in the government and the presidential structures.

Taking account of the cadre changes that have occurred, the letter says, as of 21 June there are 11 vacant posts for heads of federal executive bodies, including defense minister, chairman of the state committee for the timber industry [as received], chairman of the committee for precious metals and stones, and the heads of four federal services and four other bodies.

The message emphasizes that work is under way to select leading cadres.

Russia: Government Session, Other Events Postponed

LD2406111596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0912 GMT 24 Jun 96

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 June (Itar-Tass) — Sergey Kolesnikov, head of the government information directorate, stated the government session scheduled for 25 June and attended by President Boris Yeltsin is being postponed until a later date.

The session was to focus on implementing the decrees of the head of state and logistical planning before the second round of voting in the presidential elections. Sergey Kolesnikov stressed that the the cabinet meeting for these issues will be held at a later date.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's working trip to Vladimir Region has been postponed to another day instead of next Tuesday, the head of the government information directorate reported.

There is no final decision on whether Chernomyrdin will chair the next state commission meeting to settle the Chechen crisis next Tuesday. Aleksandr Lebed, the new secretary of the Security Council and the president's national security aide, is expected to participate as a member of the next sitting of the commission. He is to meet Sergey Stepashin, the commission's executive secretary, who will tell him about its work, today. After this meeting a day will evidently be scheduled for the next sitting of the commission.

Russia: Zyuganov Meets With Constitutional Court Chairman

LD2206113496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1127 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 22 (Interfax) — Presidential candidate Gennady Zyuganov of Russia's Communist Party conferred with the chairman of Russia's Constitutional Court Vladimir Tumanov on Saturday "to discuss the situation in the country", particularly Boris Yeltsin's refusal to sign the bill on the ceremony of inaugurating the president-elect.

At the meeting he reaffirmed his supporters' resolve to respect the lawful choice of citizens to be made on June 3rd at the 2nd round of presidential elections in Russia, Zyuganov said at a briefing.

When asked by Interfax's correspondent what prompted his meeting with Tumanov, Zyuganov said: he intends "to meet with everyone who has an influence on strict compliance with law in Russia."

He said he hopes that in the 2nd round of elections he will manage to meet with his rival Boris Yeltsin "in a television dialogue presented live."

He is drafting a message to the leaders of Russia's Federal Assembly — Yegor Stroyev and Gennadiy Seleznev — suggesting that the two presidential candidates should address the State Duma and the Federation Council on the eve of runoff elections, Zyuganov said.

Russia: Zyuganov: Yeltsin Supporters Manipulating Public Opinion

LD2106133196 Moscow NTV in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Good evening. The events of Wednesday night and, more importantly, their consequences on Thursday, were perhaps the most important moments of Russian political life throughout the whole presidential election campaign. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Those dismissed were not the only ones displeased by events. According to Gennadiy Zyuganov, Yeltsin and his team sensed that they had no particular chance of victory in the second round and got involved in creeping palace coups.

[Begin Zyuganov recording, addressing press conference] They are trying to wreck that second round, trying to turn the whole life of the country into a comedy, putting on one show after the other. First Mr. Yeltsin appeared in the role of a rock star travelling around the country without filling in the voters. Today his supporters are the same people who were calling for a clash in 1993, the same people who were conducting policies aimed at smashing the country to pieces. Those very same people are today trying to manipulate public opinion and are again trying to get into government to finish Russia off altogether. [end recording]

Russia: Lebed Explains Alliance With Yeltsin

LD2206090496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0806 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 22 (Interfax) — Staff workers of the Russian Security Council are busy drawing up a package of documents on the Council's structural makeup, Security Council Secretary and President Yeltsin's national security aide Aleksandr Lebed told representatives of the Moscow and provincial divisions of the Russian Democratic Party and the Congress of Russian Communities.

The Security Council Secretary will be expected to enjoy "far wider authority and have his own field emissaries," Lebed said.

Seven pages of his electoral manifesto became part and parcel of Boris Yeltsin's anti-corruption and law and order program, Lebed also said. "Normal people must live in peace and bandits — in fear," he stressed.

Lebed said he had assumed the duty of Security Council Secretary because "Russia, with its wild environmental policies and semi-destroyed army, is standing on the brink of an abyss."

He has no reason for loving Boris Yeltsin but sees him as "harbinger of a new idea which will win the future" and this explains why he is "standing shoulder to shoulder with Yeltsin."

In Lebed's view, "this is the wrong time for opposition, unrest and barking from behind the bushes. Moves must be made for putting this country on its feet before a financial crisis hits it next September or October."

Speaking of the second round of the presidential elections Lebed said "return to the past is the worst that can happen to a country. The Communist doctrine has the right to exist but not a single country met its principles."

Russia: Lebed Cited on Proposed New Functions of Security Council

LD2206214396 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1849 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The arrival of Aleksandr Lebed in the president's team and his appointment to the post of secretary of the Security Council are giving rise to the most varied opinions among the public. Some people consider that this is a purely political and opportunist step by the president during the election campaign. Others consider or, more likely, place great hopes on Aleksandr Lebed as a man espousing firm positions and resolute actions. Here is what Aleksandr Ivanovich, himself, thinks about the role of the Security Council at the present stage and his own specific contribution to the continuation of reforms in Russia.

[Begin Lebed recording] I have long been tired of all sorts of loudmouths who have made being in opposition their main profession. I am getting down to specific actions. I intend to do everything to ensure that there should be no more bloodshed in Russia. This is a noble undertaking no matter what anyone says.

It is sufficient to say that the situation in the country is such that the Security Council is simply fated to have to tackle not only questions of military policy, ensuring security, itself, and the coordination of actions. Many threats and problems have arisen in such spheres as the economy, ecology, information and technological security.

I think it may appear strange, even ridiculous, but national security issues today include such questions, for example, as our increasing dependency on the import of foodstuffs, the question of the exacerbation of interregional economic relations, the increasing flight of capital abroad, the question of privatization, and even questions of providing compensation for the public's savings accounts — these are also questions of national security. There are millions of people in the country who have been deceived, people who have been deceived, unfortunately, by the state.

Today we have freedom without order. We are being offered order without freedom. What I want is for there to be both order and freedom in the country, and for people's basic freedom to be protected by sensible laws.

I intend to carry out a major reorganization of the apparatus of the Security Council. This should ensure, primarily, that the departmental heads who will be included in the Security Council will be able to influence the resolution of questions of personnel, structure, functions, and financing. All appointments to leading posts and changes to the functions and structure will be coordinated with the secretary of the Security Council.

The secretary will present for confirmation by the president the agreed candidates of plenipotentiary representatives of all departments included in the ranks of the Security Council. There will be candidates from among senior officials of these departments. They should have official positions sufficiently senior to implement, coordinate, and monitor the decisions of the Security Council.

Plenipotentiary representatives of the apparatus of the Security Council will work in the council on a permanent basis while at the same time, remaining in their posts and maintaining all their powers. All of them will be put into the group of advisers or the operational council under the Security Council. The situation center of the apparatus of the Security Council will be changed to become subordinated to this group of advisers.

A unified information analytical center will be set up with the following tasks: to consider the whole complex of problems of national security, assessment of the situation on the territory of the state, analysis of the processes that could destabilize the life of society, the timely discovery of the reasons giving rise to instability, and working out measures to influence undesirable processes and to neutralize them. The priority task of this center is to determine the most dangerous problems of the present time and potential hotspots of extremism.

All the activity of the Security Council, and I wish to lay special emphasis on this, will be based on the provisions of the Constitution and the federal law and will be monitored by the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation.

Perhaps it will be a bad law, but it will be the law and will be carried out absolutely. People need order and stability. People need the opportunity to work normally, not to fear anyone, and to get on with their lives. I am deeply convinced that these should be the shared concerns of all people living in Russia, regardless of their political likes or dislikes. I am ready to talk to the Reds and the Whites, to the Left and to the Right.

I would like to repeat once again. The people has made its choice. Two people remain. We have the old worn-out and obsolete idea that cost us a large amount of bloodshed, incalculable suffering, and victims. There is a new idea, an idea unfortunately that is at present being very badly implemented, but it exists.

It is possible and necessary to act in such a way that we should begin to live. The whole globe, with small exceptions, lives while, for some reason, we, the victors in one of the greatest wars just exist. And so I choose the new idea. You will not get far with old ideas, they are finished. I acknowledge the right of the communist idea to exist. It is a beautiful idea of equality, fraternity, happiness. But for some reason it has not yet been implemented in any country. As I have already said it has cost us large numbers of victims, deprivations, and suffering. Let it be implemented somewhere else. We will simply live normally, today. [end recording]

Russia: Yavlinskiy Accepts Defeat, Prepares for Elections in 2000

LD2406115896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1058 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Interfax) — Yabloko movement leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has recognized his defeat in the current presidential elections and said that his movement will prepare for the 2000 elections, concurrently taking part in all of the federal and regional election campaigns.

"A coalition should be created with my electorate, not with me," he said during a press conference in the Interfax main office Monday in answer to a question about a possible coalition with President Boris Yeltsin before the second round. "To do so, before July 3 the president must explain to the people what the new government will be like and what policies it will pursue," he said.

Explaining why Yeltsin has not yet offered Yabloko posts in the government, Yavlinskiy said, tongue in cheek, that the president has not done so because "he is busy."

He also said that the order of the president's moves reflects the "priorities" deriving from the number of votes scored by the leaders of public forces in the first round. This explains why Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, who scored more than 14 percent of the vote, was the first to be offered the post of secretary of the Security Council, he said.

Yavlinskiy gained slightly over seven percent of the vote in the first round.

Russia: Oleg Lobov's New Job Predicted Not To Last

MK2206113396 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 96 p 1

[Analysis by Rustam Narzikulov: "Professional Dilettante"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oleg Lobov has always held economy-related positions for brief spells. His name regularly hit the lists of cabinets of ministers in periods of acute political clashes and retreated in the shadows once a comparatively calm situation called for routine office work. He has already been first deputy premier on two occasions, and he was minister of the economy before.

It could not have been any other way. Oleg Lobov is a professional apparatchik, who learned, during the years of work in Sverdlovsk Oblast [Communist Party] committee, how to be a representative, to sense political changes, to control economic sectors which are rather far divorced from one another and, most importantly, to be loyal. The latter circumstance is especially valuable in a member of a "team," as politicians like to say. It would be appropriate to recall in this connection that Lobov did not break contacts with disgraced Yeltsin in the fall of 1988, unlike most of the people closest to the then first secretary of the Moscow CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] City Committee.

While these qualities helped Mr. Lobov to survive throughout the previous years the tough atmosphere of "social Darwinism," which was calling for fresh blood, they have nothing to do with the economy and professional control of the economy. Which is why he was for such short times at the economic-management bat, and which is perhaps why his charge of sectoral and regional-economic problems will be brief.

Loyalty to Boris Yeltsin and the incumbent president's attitude to the product of the Sverdlovsk [Communist] party nomenklatura have nothing to do with regional finances, preparations for winter, oil prices, oil transportation tariffs, and trade in ferrous and nonferrous metals — all the things Lobov's predecessor, Oleg Soskovets, handled.

Lobov's experiments ended deplorably as a rule. For example, he headed, in 1992-1993, the Russian coordination commission for cooperation with Taiwan, and he nearly caused a diplomatic scandal on the eve of Yeltsin's visit to Beijing, when he wanted to lend the commission a governmental status without notifying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The number of mistakes in economic decisionmaking has to inevitably exceed a certain level before the president issues an edict removing Lobov "horizontally." [giving him another job of the same level] Whether this is going to be once again the Experts Council (the position is taken by former first deputy premier Georgiy Khizha) or the Security Council (the position is taken by Aleksandr Lebed) or they will find some other job for him, he will not work as an economist at any rate.

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA information, the major Russian companies he is going to be in charge of take a wary, if not negative, look at Lobov's appointment as first deputy premier. Be that as it may, comparing Lobov and Soskovets, some oil companies, and metal traders clearly prefer the latter, with whom they built a "normal working contact" despite the fact that they were always obliged to take account of the entire complexity of relations between Oleg Soskovets and Viktor Chernomyrdin. Lobov's powers are smaller than those of his predecessor. According to a government source, sectors of the defense complex will be in charge of another deputy premier.

Lobov has rather strained relations with big commercial banks. Let us recall that it was the "Lobov commission" that investigated into the "Black Tuesday" on Russia's money market (fall of 1994) resulting in the removal of Viktor Gerashchenko (Central Bank chairman), Sergey Dubinin (finance minister), and Aleksandr Shokhin (minister of the economy).

It is also obvious that, once the election fever is over, the president's economic adviser Aleksandr Livshits, who says he works "as Livshits and Chubays today," will not be able to stand the physical pressure of all the paperwork in the economic sphere. A need for Chubays or an appropriate substitute will be rather great, and the new deputy premier will have to be asked to turn his hand to something else.

Russia: Security Council Deputy Secretary Denies Resignation

LD2406123496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1152 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Interfax) — Vladimir Rubanov, a deputy secretary in the Russian Security Council, has denied news reports of his dismissal.

No member of the council's personnel has tendered his resignation, he said. "Reports of my resignation are premature," Rubanov said.

"The new functions and structure of the Security Council are to be identified soon. Once they are approved by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, a reshuffle in the council staff is possible," he said.

Military Issues

Russia: Lebed: Yeltsin To Name New Defense Minister 24 or 25 Jun

LD2106165596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin will decide on who will be the Russian defense minister on Monday [24 June] or Tuesday [25 June], Aleksandr Lebed, Russian Security Council chief and presidential advisor on national security, told reporters in Moscow on Friday.

Lebed said he was currently conducting "successful" consultations with nominees for the defense minister.

However, Lebed declined to unveil the names of the candidates for the defense minister.

Nothing changed in the management of the Russian armed forces during the last three days despite Pavel Grachev's resignation as the defense minister, Lebed said in the State Duma on Friday.

Lebed read out a letter from Mikhail Kolesnikov, Russian acting defense minister, saying that "during June 18-21 the Russian Defense Ministry, the General Staff and military headquarters performed their regular everyday activity regarding the management of troops." "There were no irregularities in the management of the armed forces. The current situation has not changed. There were no additional orders to change the regime of the troops' everyday activities. The morale among the troops is satisfactory," Kolesnikov said in the letter.

However, Yelena Agapova, the former defense minister's spokeswoman, has tried since March 1996 to create "a certain background" regarding Grachev's possible dismissal, launch "noisy actions" supporting Grachev in the event of his dismissal and send corresponding telegrams to the president, said Lebed. He said he had taken "preventive measures" against such actions and ordered to prevent Grachev's orders from reaching troops. Lebed said he had also ordered generals "not to spend state money on condolence telegrams."

"Everything was calm. There is no corpus delicti. The case has no future from the judicial point of view. Order reigns within the armed forces. I consider the problem as closed," Lebed said.

Meanwhile, the Russian Chief Military Prosecutor's Office has launched an investigation into the statement by Russian Security Council secretary Aleksandr Lebed on the attempt of some top-ranking generals to put pressure on the Russian president after dismissal of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Chief Military Prosecutor Valentin Panichev told Interfax that several generals had been summoned to his office for explanations.

He stressed no criminal proceedings had been instituted. A decision on criminal proceedings will be taken on the basis of investigation materials and reports of the generals, said Panichev.

Panichev said they had not so far invited Grachev to his office. This will be done as need be depending on information to be obtained by the investigators from the Grachev circle. IF Note: Pavel Grachev has not so far received any new appointment, a high-ranking representative of the Russian Defense Ministry told Interfax. Grachev is now at his dacha, playing tennis and volleyball, the same source said.

The military official confirmed that Grachev on June 17 refused to be appointed as Russia's official representative in NATO. Such an appointment was offered to Grachev by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "Grachev has not so far been proposed any new appointments," the same source said.

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office has also launched an investigation into the statement by Lebed claiming an attempt by the circles close to ex-Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to stage a coup.

Meanwhile, Mikhail Surkov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee, told MPs in the Duma on Friday that there was "no ground" for drawing a conclusion about an attempted state coup.

Russia: Lebed Proposes General Rodionov for Defense Minister Post

LD2206105996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 22 (Interfax) — Secretary of Russia's Security Council and presidential national security adviser Aleksandr Lebed believes that Russia's Defense Ministry should be led by Col.Gen. Yuriy Rodionov.

Rodionov is a worthy and valiant man, he told a news conference in the Lesnoy Gorodok holiday home outside Moscow. He denied the rumors that the acting defense minister, chief of General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov, had been dismissed.

He is not planning to go to Chechnya before the second round of presidential elections, Lebed said. He does not like to start attacks from unprepared positions; he will go when he is ready, Lebed said. It is necessary to realize that all wars end in negotiations and peace — this is what we must start from, Lebed pointed out.

Russia: Military Shows Professional Calm Toward Kremlin Shake Up

MK2106130096 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Col. Sergey Arbuzov under the general headline: "Reaction by Special Services and Power Ministries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The vast majority of officers and generals at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff related calmly to the president's decision to dismiss Korzhakov, Barsukov and Soskovets. As, incidentally, they did to Grachev's dismissal. According to reports from the regions, there has been no agitation in other Russian garrisons. The military has made no preparations and was not ready for anticonstitutional action. Meanwhile, officers have no great sympathies toward the ruling authority. Undermanning; the absence of a combat training system, as was the case under the USSR; low and irregularly paid salaries; social problems, and the lack of housing — these and many other problems are a heavy burden on the personnel of the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

Neither did the appointment of Lebed to the position of Security Council secretary and national security adviser to the Russian Federation president add any optimism to many officers. Lebed promised to downsize the military by one-third, expressing doubts about the possibility of a professional military being created before the year 2000. He promised major changes. Knowing his tough character, he can be expected to live up to his promises. Therefore uncertainty still lies ahead for many.

Even so, the pessimistic mood in the military will hardly reflect on the political situation or the political character of election struggles. Owing to its conservatism, the military has remained basically an apolitical and manageable system. This may be one of its main values thanks to which minimal stability has still been maintained in Russia.

The ouster from the presidential team of "hawks" who were preparing to usurp power points to the low probability of revenge based on the use of force. This probability is diminished even further by Lebed's involvement and oversight. The general supervises the troop command and control system, receives reports from the acting defense minister, and service commanders in chief, and from the Central Command Post of the General Staff, and it is difficult to imagine that in the present situation anybody in the military will try to go against his will.

Meanwhile officers in the Russian Federation armed forces are expecting a competent and professional, honest and decent man, capable of standing up for them. People in the military miss order and real combat training.

Major changes in the leadership of some of Russia's power structures point to President Yeltsin's intention to play a fair game. To all appearances he will also accept his possible defeat in the presidential elections just as openly and honestly. The military will take the advent of Communists calmly. Many experts note that approximately 40 percent of career military voted for Zyuganov.

Russia: General Reports No Army Coup Attempts After Grachev Dismissal

LD2106135796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) — The Russian army has undertaken no attempts to launch a state coup in the wake of Pavel Grachev's resignation as defense minister, Col. Gen. Viktor Barynkin, first deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, said at the State Duma's evening sesion on Friday [21 June].

Barynkin briefed the MPs on the situation in the army in connection with the statement by Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed that he had prevented a "third" coup in the army during the night of June 18 to June 19.

"Even if somebody in the supreme command wanted to give orders aimed at undermining the state system, he would not have managed to do this," Barynkin said.

"Let me be held responsible [for this]," Barynkin said as he disclosed a clause of a top secret instruction from the defense minister concerning combat readiness which says that "the supreme commander-in-chief is the only one who can put the armed forces at different degrees of combat readiness.

"A strategic command exercise under my supervision was being carried out in the General Staff on June 18 to prepare for the command training slated to begin on June 25," Barynkin said.

"Having learnt about Grachev's resignation from an officer on duty, I went to Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov, Armed Forces General Staff chief, to find out what should be done in this situation," he said. Barynkin said Kolesnikov advised him not to bother and to continue to carry out the exercise. "I did this, and we completed the analysis of this exercise yesterday at 2:00 p.m.," Barynkin told the State Duma.

Russia: Lebed Discusses Personnel Changes, Military Reform

MK2206131796 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jun 96 p 1

["Exclusive" interview with Aleksandr Lebed by Igor Korotchenko; place and date not given: "'Everybody Needs a Secure Russia.' Aleksandr Lebed Hopes To Return to the Military Officers Sacked Under Grachev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Korotchenko] Aleksandr Ivanovich, the situation changed after our previous conversation overnight from 16 to 17 June. Now you are a key figure on the political Olympus, playing on the side of President Boris Yeltsin....

[Lebed] The people of Russia have made a preliminary choice, coming to the polling stations on 16 June. In the first round Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov garnered one-third of the votes each. In this situation you need to take a definitive stand. He who has not done this is a political corpse. Therefore I have defined my allegiance — not to personalities but to ideas. There is an old idea and a new one. We have paid a dear price for the old idea. The new idea has the country's strategic development prospects going for it. It is another matter that thus far is has been badly implemented. This can and must be corrected by raising a team of professionals capable of taking on administration of the state.

I suppose that in the next few days a new defense minister will be appointed as will be a number of other key figures, who will be able to tackle the backlog of problems. It was for the sake of this idea that I took a stand. You can sit on the fence; you can join the opposition and yell at the drop of the hat; you can do anything except that there is no point in any of that. Yet there must be a point! We are faced with a financial crisis in September or October. We must meet the challenge head-on. If we survive, then we can break the deadlock.

I told the president that I am no good as a boy for his retinue. This is not my calling. I have come to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin as a proponent of a certain idea. And so I know: If we start turning back, that will be the end of it.

[Korotchenko] How serious was the situation at the Defense Ministry on the day Pavel Grachev resigned? Could it have developed into any concrete action involving the use of force?

[Lebed] Yelena Agapova has been preparing that action ever since March. Of course, servicemen loved the defense minister as a dog loves a stick, but on the other hand they were afraid, and therefore all orders from the top were obeyed and saluted. As to the attempt, it was serious, very serious indeed.... It was deterred. I am not making any claims on anything.... Somebody is trying to make a laughing stock out of me, making jokes. Let them. Even so, the next morning the country woke up in quite a different state.

[Korotchenko] Whoever is making these jokes is presumably not very bright because he has no idea of the decisionmaking mechanism in the Defense Ministry structure. They do not understand how the flywheel of the military machine starts to swing and divisions are set in motion....

[Lebed] No, they do not know the mechanism of how this is done. Let them joke; this does not bother me.

[Korotchenko] What was the source of information about the nature of the plans discussed at a conference with Grachev?

[Lebed] This information came from reliable sources.

[Korotchenko] Do you consider the dismissal of Soskovets, Korzhakov, and Barsukov as an appropriate decision by the president?

[Lebed] For the time being I do not know what this all is about. The Security Council session ended quite peacefully. It discussed matters that had only an indirect bearing on the issue. Then Anatoliy Borisovich Chubays walked into the president's office, and after he left, President Yeltsin made his decision.

[Korotchenko] How serious are the upcoming personnel changes in the Defense Ministry going to be?

[Lebed] Responsible posts must be filled not with "good" people but with professionals. All professionals will be serving. We have a lot of young generals, colonels, and lieutenant colonels who were discharged by Grachev for understandable reasons. I think that we shall return them. The country needs them.

[Korotchenko] Are you aware of any counteraction from any quarter in the Kremlin?

[Lebed] No.

[Korotchenko] Do you have a good contact with the president?

[Lebed] A working contact.

[Korotchenko] What did you agree on at your recent meeting with Gennadiy Zyuganov?

[Lebed] We discussed the results of the first election round. We agreed that all predictions about widespread falsification of the election were not justified. There has been no "global falsification" — Zyuganov agreed with that. We also agreed that everybody needs a secure Russia: the Reds, the Whites, and everybody else. We all live in one land and speak the same language.

[Korotchenko] Now military reform will forge ahead?

[Lebed] I think that if we manage to correctly resolve the problem of appointing a new defense minister, with whom we will substantively work on the concept for this reform, it will proceed even within the unsatisfactory level of financing that exists at present. The main thing is to display political will and to accept that reform in the armed forces should advance against the background of military reform in the country. The state itself should reform one of its major institutions. This is not only up to the defense minister and the chief of the General Staff.

[Korotchenko] Today many sections of the population link your coming to power with the hope that Russia will acquire in the world a status and place worthy of it....

[Lebed] Those who believe in me must have no doubts: Russia will reemerge as a great power.

[Korotchenko] Will instances of corruption in the military be thoroughly investigated?

[Lebed] Yes. It is primarily owing to the activity of such generals as Vasiliy Vorobyev and Churanov that the military has acquired the pathetic status that it now has.

[Korotchenko] Do your contacts with the president confirm that Boris Yeltsin intends to crack down on corruption and embezzlement in the armed forces?

[Lebed] There is no doubt about that. I am sure of it.

Russia: Lebed Does Not Attend Defense Ministry Meeting

LD2406155996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 24 (Interfax) — Top Russian Defense Ministry officials held a meeting in Moscow Monday, which was not attended by Aleksandr Lebed, Russian Security Council secretary and presidential national security aide, a source in the Russian General Staff told Interfax.

According to him, it was a regular meeting held to discuss current issues.

The source named Col. Gen. Igor Rodionov, head of the General Staff Academy, and Gen. Konstantin Kobets, chief military expert of the Russian Armed Forces, as the two most likely candidates for the post of defense minister vacated by Pavel Grachev.

Earlier, Duma deputy Col. Gen. Boris Gromov and chief military expert of the Russian government Col. Gen. Valeriy Mironov were also listed among possible candidates for the post. Various sources suggested that First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, Federal Border Service Director Gen. Andrey Nikolayev or Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov could be appointed to the post.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Lebed Addresses Duma on Situation in Armed Forces

LD2106134796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) - Nothing has changed in the management of the Russian armed forces during the last three days despite Pavel Grachev's resignation as defense minister, Alexander Lebed, Russian Security Council Secretary and presidential adviser on national security, said in the State Duma on Friday.

Lebed read out a letter from Mikhail Kolesnikov, acting defense minister, saying that "June 18-21 the Russian Defense Ministry, the General Staff and military headquarters performed their regular everyday activity regarding the management of troops.

"There were no irregularities in the management of the armed forces. The current situation has not changed. There were no additional orders to change the regime of the troops' everyday activities. The morale among the troops is satisfactory,"

Kolesnikov said in the letter.

However, Yelena Agapova, the former defense minister's spokeswoman, has tried since March 1996 to create "a certain background" regarding Grachev's possible dismissal, launch "noisy actions" supporting Grachev in the event of his dismissal and sent corresponding telegrams to the president, said Lebed. He said he had taken "preventive measures" against such actions and ordered Grachev's orders to be prevented from reaching troops. Lebed said he had also ordered generals "not to spend state money on condolence telegrams."

"Everything was calm. There is no corpus delicti. The case has no future from the judicial point of view. Order reigns within the armed forces. I consider the problem as closed. I do not know why this matter is being stirred up. For me, this matter is not worth a second glance," Lebed said.

Russia: Lebed Tells Duma of His Part in Preventing Army Unrest

LD2106173196 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1520 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Lebed addressed the State Duma today. Quoting a report from Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, the acting Russian defense minister, he declared that the Defense Ministry had never attempted a coup d'etat. The secretary of the

Security Council expressed regret that journalists had placed their own interpretation on his remark about SCSE-3 [State Committee for the State of Emergency], and had once again made a mountain out of a molehill. Here is an extract from Aleksandr Lebed's address to the deputies:

[Begin Lebed recording] Let me explain what really happened. The president of Russia issued and edict dismissing the defense minister. This is the sort of thing that happens from time to time. One goes out, another comes in. The surname changes. Control of the army remains the same. Nothing has changed in the Armed Forces.

Since March, Yelena Agapova, the defense minister's press secretary — and not her alone — has been working within the Armed Forces to create a certain background in case the defense minister were to be dismissed. This background developed long ago. It was to be implemented in the form of noisy protests and numerous telegrams addressed to the president. This work was under way.

I received information at 1100 on 18 June, that, following the minister's dismissal, this campaign was to be launched. So, I took preventive steps. I rang the central command point of the General Staff and ordered the general on duty there not to allow any directive from the former defense minister to be circulated among the troops. I visited the headquarters of the Moscow Military District and the headquarters of the Airborne Forces and saw for myself that everything was quiet and peaceful. While at the headquarters of the Moscow Military District I sent off a circular to all units. The circular confirmed that the minister had been replaced and that I had been appointed to the post that you know about. Troops were ordered to maintain calm and order and to get on with routine combat and operational training. Half in jest I recommended that the generals not waste public money on telegrams of condolence.

Everything passed off peacefully. There is no element of a crime. The affair has no judicial angle. Order prevails in the Armed Forces. Control of the troops was not disturbed. As far as I myself am concerned, the matter was closed long ago. I do not know why it is constantly being harped on or who has an interest in it.

Basically this business is not worth a brass farthing. [end recording]

Russia: State Duma Ratifies Internatational Agreements

LD2106165896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) — The Russian State Duma on Friday ratified an agreement between the Russian and Norwegian governments on housing construction for Russian troops pulled out of the Baltic countries.

The Norwegian government has earmarked 40 million Norwegian kroner for this purpose, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoliy Solomatin said.

Russia is now home to 117,000 "apartmentless" officers, he said.

A total of 40,000 apartments to date has been built for Russian officers under agreements with the German government. Another 5,000 apartments are planned to be built before the end of 1996.

The State Duma also ratified the agreements with Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the service of these countries' residents in Russian border guard troops deployed on their territory.

Russian border guard troops in Armenia include 2,000 Armenian residents (50 percent of personnel), 3,000 local residents (90 percent) in Kyrgyzstan and 10,000 (70 percent) in Tajikistan, Russian Federal Border Guard Service Deputy Director Aleksandr Manilov told MPs.

Russia: Duma Issues Appeal to Premier Over Gold-Producing Crisis

LD2106212696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2101 GMT 21 Jun 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 22 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian State Duma on Friday issued an appeal to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in an attempt to draw his attention to the crisis situation in the nation's gold-producing industry.

The situation have been getting worse and worse in recent years. Production is slumping, mines are shutting down, the appeal said.

The main reason for the catastrophic situation is high taxes, increasing costs of production and an almost complete state monopoly of purchasing the precious metals on extraction, without providing any guarantees on full and timely payment, according to MPs.

The government does not fully comply with its direct responsibilities concerning the gold-producing industry, they said.

Thus, a programme for the development of the industry until year 2000 has not yet been adopted. The mechanics of implementing a presidential decree on the development of the precious metals market have not been worked out. Federal authorities interpret laws in their own way, according to them.

Such work of the federal executive branch discredits the government of the Russian Federation, they said.

The Duma called on Chernomyrdin to take effective measures to improve the situation.

Russia: Russia Is Our Home Suggests Duma Democratic Coalition

MM2106122896 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 21 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russia Is Our Home Gathers Coalition of Democratic Forces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Russia Is Our Home" faction has made an attempt to create in the Duma a coalition of democratically oriented deputies of the chamber which could withstand the left-wing opposition.

Sergey Belyayev, the leader of the faction, has met in the Kremlin with the Russian Federation president and offered the head of state his concept for uniting the reformist forces. The proposal to create a democratic coalition was heard and the process of consultations and talks between several factions and deputies' groups and individual deputies is continuing.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has displayed interest in the coalition but before embarking on such a union he must get the go-ahead from his faction.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Yeltsin: 'Kaliningrad Region Is Russian Soil'

LD2306170396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 23 Jun 96

[Video report by unidentified correspondent, including recorded comments made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on a visit to Kaliningrad on 23 June; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The main idea of the visit by Boris Yeltsin to Kaliningrad Region was it seems: Russia is here in earnest and for a long time.

The president spent this morning aboard the destroyer Nastoychevyy. Addressing the crew of the destroyer, Boris Yeltsin recalled that Russia had proved itself a great maritime power namely on the Baltic.

[Yeltsin] Kaliningrad Region is Russian soil. Nobody should have any doubts about that.

The sailors presented a dagger to Boris Yeltsin. Boris Yeltsin promised that in the 1997 budget the navy will be financed in a separate clause.

Addressing the people of the town of Baltiysk, the president touched upon problems facing the country and the town. Baltiysk has serious water supply problems. Even cold water is cut off according to a schedule.

[Yeltsin] I am happy to tell you that a fundamental decision has been made. The town will have water. [applause and cheers from crowd] And to get to the heart of the matter, know that I will do everything to ensure that the people of Kaliningrad feel themselves to be 100 percent Russians, even more than 100 percent Russians, and to ensure that they do not feel cut off!

Baltiysk is a town of sailors. It was especially important for the local people to hear the president speak of respect for the army and the navy.

[Yeltsin] It will be backed up by a strong state policy in the sphere of defense and military reform [sentence as heard]. That is the aim served by the appointment of General Aleksandr Lebed as Security Council secretary.

The president was given a very warm welcome in Kaliningrad Region. [passage omitted]

Apart from the dagger, Yeltsin today received 6 million rubles worth of shares of the (Melnikov) concern. [passage omitted]

Boris Yeltsin told those assembled that it was planned by the end of the year to begin to compensate the savings of 75-80-year-olds and to increase benefits for children in the second half of the year. The program of the president's visit ended with the laying of stone for a church on Victory Square. [passage omitted] [video shows Yeltsin boarding vessel, taking salute, addressing sailors, receiving present, bread and salt welcome, addressing civilians, surrounded by crowd, getting out of helicopter, shaking hands with officials, woman in crowd holding red banner with illegible slogan, Yeltsin with clergy]

Russia: Yeltsin Boosts Morale in Kaliningrad Region

LD2306192596 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin completed his working visit to Kaliningrad Region today. This morning the president visited the naval base at Baltiysk where he addressed sailors on the destroyer Nastoychivyy.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] It was here on the Baltic that Russia became a great naval power and a great world power. That is how it was, and that is how it will be. One of my priority objectives at the moment is to eliminate the debts owed to the town. Important steps to resolve social problems are planned. [end recording]

After this, Boris Yeltsin met citizens of the town and sailors on the Square of Baltic Glory. He said among other things:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] You are separated from the rest of the Russian nation by two states and three borders. This means only one thing. Henceforth the people of the Baltic and all inhabitants of Kaliningrad Region must be given greater attention, greater care, and greater support. [end recording]

Russia: Zavgayev Views Effect Lebed May Have on Chechen Situation

LD2206123696 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1212 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev said in an interview for Ekho Moskvy radio station that he has yet to learn anything about the possible visit to the Chechen Republic of Aleksandr lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council and aide to the Russian president on national security.

According to Doku Zavgayev, he has "not spoken to Aleksandr Lebed since his new appointment."

At the same time, Doku Zavgayev believes that Aleksandr Lebed "could have a positive effect on the development of the situation in Chechnya."

"Aleksandr Lebed has a wealth of experience of working in similar conditions, which will serve him well in resolving the conflict," Doku Zavgayev said.

Russia: Tikhomirov Fails To Appear for Planned Talks With Maskhadov

LD2106134296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 21 Jun 96

[By Alvi Karimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISHKI, Chechnya June 21 (Itar-Tass) — Federal commander in Chechnya Vyacheslav Tikhomirov and Chechen rebel commander-in-chief Aslan Maskhadov failed to meet for talks on Friday [21 June].

Tikhomirov did not arrive for the pre-planned meeting at the appointed time, Maskhadov said. The venue of the meeting was in the vicinity of a federal outpost near Shali.

The two commanders planned to discuss the implementation of military deals which were signed by a federal and Chechen rebel negotiators in the Ingush capital Nazran earlier in June.

Russia: Yandarbiyev Convenes Emergency Meeting of Defense Committee

LD2306092996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0909 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTHERN CHECHNYA, June 23 (Interfax) — The leader of the Chechen opposition Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev has signed a document on an emergency meeting of the opposition's supreme military body — the defense committee.

The document was signed on Saturday after a report by Kazbek Makhashev who heads the group responsible for the release of the captives, asking for a meeting with the federal side, a spokesman for the militants HQ has told Interfax.

According to the spokesman, Makhashev expressed serious doubts concerning the desire of the Russuian side to continue the talks at the level of expert groups and to implement the agreements signed in Moscow on May 27 and in Nazran (Ingushetia) on June 10.

At the emergency meeting the opposition defense committee is expected to consider "the development of the situation." The spokesman also said that the opposition intends to implement the Moscow and Nazran understandings "before the defense committee takes another decision."

Russia: Spokesmen for Zavgayev Take Part in Talks on Military

LD2206102396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1000 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, June 22 (Interfax) — Spokesmen for Chechnya's Moscow-backed government — Ruslan Zakayev and Bek Baskhanov — are taking part in the negotiations on a package of military issues, which began between working groups in the town of Khankala near Groznyy on Saturday, leader of the press center of federal troops Roman Sokolovskiy told Interfax on Saturday.

According to him, the possibility of their participation in the talks was coordinated between the commander of federal troops Vyacheslav Tikhomirov and the chief of Chechen armed formations Aslan Maskhadov on Friday.

Before the beginning of talks Tikhomirov demanded that the rebels give a written reply to his complaints concerning their violations of the ceasefire agreement, Sokolovskiy said. According to Tikhomirov, since June 1st Russian troops in Chechnya have lost 33 servicemen as a result of shootings by separatists; 123 servicemen were wounded and 24 are missing.

According to the press center, participants in Saturday's talks in Khankala intend to define such notions, as "special operation," "illegal carrying of arms," and "demilitarization."

The talks are being held on the level of deputy chairmen of the two working groups. The Russian delegation is led by Colonel Viktor Vasilenko and the Chechen by Kazbek Makhashev, interior minister in the government of the self-proclaimed republic of Ichkeriya.

The talks are expected to continue for about two hours.

Russia: Aide of Moscow-Backed Chechen Leader Zavgayev Kidnapped

LD2206093696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0922 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 22 (Interfax) — Representative of the Moscow backed Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev, Albert Umanskiy, was kidnapped in Groznyy last night, Chechnya's Interior Ministry has reported, adding that the situation in Chechnya "remains tense."

The concentration of militants has been spotted in the Gudermess, Vedeno, and Kurchaloy regions, the source said.

Russia: Spokesman: Moscow Concerned About Chechen 'Provocations'

LD2106205096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1951 GMT 21 Jun 96

[By Sergey Gorbunov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Itar-Tass) — The press secretary of the state commission for the settlement of the crisis in Chechnya, Sergey Slipchenko, on Friday expressed concern about the increasing number of provocations by Chechen rebels against federal troops.

"Federal troops implement the ceasefire agreement. They are not involved in hostilities and fire only for self-defence. Moscow is doing its best to have the negotiating process on track," Slipchenko told Itar-Tass by phone.

However, if rebels do not stop provocations, "federal troops will fire with all their might," he stressed.

The spokesman said that according to military agreements signed in the Ingush capital Nazran earlier this month, federal troops may open return fire at rebels who do not obey the orders of their commanders.

Separatist leaders, in turn, should take measures against violators of the agreements, he said.

Russia: Russian-Chechen Talks on Military Issues End in Vain

LD2206125096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1241 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 22 (Interfax) — Talks on military problems between the working groups of the Russian federal authorities and the armed Chechen opposition in Khankala, the outskirts of the Chechen capital of Grozny, ended in vain on Saturday. The talks lasted for about two hours.

The separatists failed to provide a written explanation of the violation of the June 10 military agreement by the armed Chechen opposition despite the demand put forward by Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, commander of the Russian federal troops in Chechnya, the federal command press center told Interfax.

Among other reasons that made the talks unsuccessful, the federal command press center named the Chechen working group's make-up. Kazbek Makhashev, interior minister in the separatists' government, was the only senior representative of the Chechen separatists to come to the talks in Khankala.

The two sides failed to meet the agenda that included the coordination of such terms as "demilitarization," "illegal possession of weapons" and "special operations," the same source said.

The sides also failed to set a date of the next meeting between the working groups.

Russia: Chechen Truce in Danger of Collapse Despite Efforts

LD2106125196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Itar-Tass) — The truce agreement signed with the Chechen separatists a short time ago looks in serious danger of collapse as militants continue attacks which increase the toll in the 18-month old war in the North Caucasus.

Six men died and 12 were wounded in rebel attacks on federal troops in Chechnya since Thursday morning. On Friday morning two armoured vehicles of the Russian federal security forces were blown up in bomb explosions in Groznyy. One of them was ripped apart as a directed action bomb fastened to a concrete pole near the Rodina (Motherland) movie theater in the Staropromyslovskiy district of the Chechen capital went off killing five and wounding three troops.

The other vehicle was shattered near Lenin Park as a land mine exploded slightly wounding the district commandant and a soldier who were riding atop the vehicle. The mine must have been home-made judging by the tail part of a 122-mm mine found on the spot.

One man died and seven were injured when Chechen rebels shot down a helicopter of the Russian federal security forces in the republic's southeastern region on Thursday, the press centre of the federal forces in Chechnya reported today.

In an earlier report the military said a helicopter had crashed in southeastern Chechnya on Thursday but mistakenly called it a Mi-24 instead of the smaller Mi-8, Itar-Tass learned.

According to the press centre of the federal forces, Chechen separatists have repeatedly violated the cease-fire agreement by staging attacks on army convoys and planting land mines on the roads.

Federal troops were targeted in 13 gun attacks, including five in Groznyy since Thursday morning, the press center said.

Five or six well-armed groups on Thursday tried to penetrate the administrative zone of the Chechen capital where the house of the government and the buildings of the Federal Security Service and the Interior Ministry are located along with ammunition dumps and the communications center. One of the buildings in the area houses the electoral commission which is busy counting the ballots cast in last Sunday's elections to the Republic's National Assembly (parliament).

Media reporters accredited in Groznyy put up in the hotel located nearby. Last night, the reporters were awakened by the loud gun reports coming from the Dynamo stadium situated next to the hotel. Automatic assault riffles and grenade launchers were used by the rebels to put out of operation a satellite dish serving to maintain inter-city telephone communications.

Several people were wounded in a clash with the group which had repeatedly fired guns at the dish on several successive nights.

The duty officers at the Chechen Interior Ministry registered 14 crime reports since Thursday morning. They said a new wave of robberies is sweeping the republic. Gangs of five to ten men wearing military uniforms have been reported to break into apartments and warehouses and seize overland automobiles and specialised cars. Very often, they carry automatic rifles equipped with silencers, laser aiming and night-vision devices.

According to military sources, the separatists have resumed radio conversations while trying to jam radio contacts between units of the federal forces and the republic's Interior Ministry and conducting radio surveillance.

Despite all this, efforts continue to be made to keep the peace process on track. On Friday, Commander of the combined federal forces in Chechnya, Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov was due to meet Chechen separatist military leader Aslan Maskhadov for talks on truce and other military problems at 15:00 Moscow time in the Chechen village of Starye Atagi, according to sources close to the OSCE mission in Groznyy.

A spokesman for the state commission on the settlement of the Chechen crisis, Sergey Slipchenko, told Itar-Tass that state commission executive secretary Sergey Stepashin had been informed about the meeting in a telephone conversation with OSCE mission chief Tim Guldimann. Moscow regards the holding of that meeting as "a considerable success," because the protracted negotiations on the organisation of such a meeting had been fruitless earlier.

Slipchenko stressed that media reports about Guldimann's departure for Moscow together with the separatists information minister Movladi Udugov were "absolutely at variance with reality."

Meanwhile, the Federal Security Service denied allegations that it was after Dzhokhar Dudayev's widow Alla. FSB spokesman Aleksandr Zdanovich said in a comment on the media reports alleging that Alla Dudayeva had failed to respond to an FSB summons and report to FSB headquarters and was subsequently proclaimed "wanted," that "she had not been ordered to report anywhere because we have no questions to ask her."

Zdanovich said FSB agents had last contacted Dzhokhar Dudayev's wife at the end of May when she was stopped in Nalchik when trying to leave for Turkey with a false passport.

The woman was set free by President Boris Yeltsin's order and the FSB has had "no claims to make" with respect to Alla Dudayeva, the FSB spokesman declared.

Russia: Chechen Opposition Prepares To Defend Vedeno Settlement

LD2306104396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0903 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTH CHECHNYA, June 23 (Interfax) — The armed Chechen opposition's command has ordered all formations of separatist rebels deployed near the settlement of Vedeno in southern Chechnya to take necessary measures to defend the settlement, a Chechen separatist command representative told Interfax.

The order was given after the 506th regiment of Russian federal troops deployed near the Chechen village of Elistanzhi, Vedeno region, began moving toward the settlement of Vedeno on Saturday evening, the same source said.

Russian federal troops now have control of nearly all major heights in the Vedeno area. The territory of the settlement itself is "formally neutral" as representatives of the conflicting sides have agreed.

The separatists contacted the Russian federal command by radio and asked about the purpose of the Russian regiment's movement but "received no answer," the Chechen separatists' military representative said.

Russia: Chechen Negotiator Comments on Federal Intent

LD2306120396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1110 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTHERN CHECHNYA, June 23 (Interfax) — The head of the expert group of the Chechen opposition Kazbek Makhashev has expressed "serious doubts of the desire and preparedness of the federal side to implement the agreements signed in Moscow and Nazran (Ingushetia).

In an interview with Interfax on Sunday, Makhashev said that today "there are no prospects to settle the conflict peacefully, because the Russian military are deliberately "torpedoing" the agreements signed in Moscow on May 27 and in Nazran (Ingushetia) on June 10.

Makhashev who the opposition interior minister, heads the group of experts responsible for the release of prisoners of war and captives.

According to him, the view that the federal side does not want to comply with the agreements, "finally shaped up on Saturday during the meeting with the federal working group at the military base Khankala (near Groznyy)."

Noting that "the meeting has produced no results," Makhashev said that "if the situation continues developing this way, it may be fraught with dangerous and unpredictable consequences."

Makhashev also said that he had informed the federal side that the latter does not implement the agreements, for example, the provision on unblocking villages (which was to begin on June 11 and end on July 7), however, "judging by the reaction of the federal side, it is not going to implement the agreements."

Russia: Udugov Blames 'Zavgayev Militia', Lone Fighters for Attacks

LD2306154396 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian
1530 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Movladi Udugov, minister of press and information of the self-proclaimed Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, told Ekho Moskvy radio station that "the Chechen side acknowledges that Russian armored equipment is being blown up in Chechnya."

Two armored personnel carriers belonging to the federal forces were blown up in Groznyy on 21 June as a result of which five servicemen were killed and the same number injured.

Udugov noted that "the command of the Chechen Armed Forces cannot say specifically or unequivocally today whose grouping carried out that explosion, since by order of Aslan Maskhadov all mobile groups of the Chechen Armed Forces operating in Groznyy have ceased their acts of diversion."

"We have information that acts of diversion in Chechnya are being carried by forces of the so-called Doku Zavgayev militia under the guise of fighters and also by lone uncontrolled fighters who are forming groupings of two or three people and carrying out acts of revenge for their kith and kin," Udugov said.

At the same time, the minister of the opposition government of Chechnya stressed that agreements on the cease-fire of combat operations on the territory of Chechnya are not being implemented, first of all by the Russian side, which regularly fires at Chechen positions and populated areas.

Russia: Groznyy Conference Discusses Local, Presidential Elections

LD2206161996 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1544 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, June 22 (Interfax) — A Saturday conference in the Chechen capital Groznyy summed up the political results of the first round of presidential elections and elections to the local parliament in Chechnya. It was attended by the head of the Chechen republic Doku Zavgayev and the Russian government representative in Chechnya Nikolay Fedosov who told Interfax parliamentary elections were valid.

He stressed that ballots were cast in all regions of the republics except Vedeno which is controlled by separatist militants led by Shamil Basayev.

Fedosov said 350 candidates "representing actually all political forces in the republic" ran for the 65 seats. As elections were not held in four out of 22 electoral districts by-elections will have to be organized there.

The envoy stressed that only six senior officials were elected to the local parliament.

Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Law on Budget Changes

LD2106124596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 21 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a law on changes in the 1996 federal budget which was passed by the State Duma on May 24 and approved by the Federation Council on June 5, the president's press service reported on Friday.

A summer health campaign worth 214 billion rubles will be financed from revenues tapped from borrowing from the Russian Social Insurance Fund, as well as from the reserve funds of the Russian president and government.

Russia: Financial Market Reacts to Lebed Appointment

MM2106131096 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Jun 96 p 2

[Article by Yelena Ishkova: "Financial Market Reacts to Election Alliances"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian financial market has for a long time behaved like a sensitive barometer of political cataclysms, and even more so during the presidential election. Mistakes by people operating in it result in the loss of billions, therefore this "barometer's" forecasts are particularly accurate. Lately it has been predicting clear and cloudless "weather" in the economy. This forecast is undoubtedly linked to current President Boris Yeltsin's increasing chance of reelection.

As soon as the news of his understanding with Aleksandr Lebed came in, the market in corporate securities, which appeared to have gone into hibernation, started rolling again. It was noticeable that active transactions were being conducted on 18 June involving far more securities than on the eve of the election. Indeed, the volume of trading in the Russian trading system exceeded expectations. It was recorded at a level three times higher than the average figures for the preceding days. Russian brokers were the most active. To all appearances, they have a better understanding of what Lebed's decision means for the outcome of the presidential election than foreign investors, who continued to regard the general warily.

Share prices also changed. Specialists noted a 10-12 percent increase in quotations in the initial hours of trading. There was a particularly strong rise in quotations for shares in the "Mosenergo" joint-stock company (11.5 percent) and also the "Rostelekom" joint stock company, shares in which suddenly rose to a record price of $2.3. Those operating in the corporate securities market predict that the rise in quotations will continue, although at a less rapid rate.

The dollar behaved in a similar manner. The rate on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, which had been falling steadily right up to 14 June, suddenly rose sharply on 17 June, a day of political uncertainty, and reached 5,056.7 rubles [R] to the dollar. But on the very next day, when the news came in of Aleksandr Lebed's appointments and Pavel Grachev's dismissal, it fell to R5,051 and continued to fall. The same trend was observed on the Moscow over- the-counter foreign exchange market. Dealers noted a 40-45-point fall in the dollar rate. This is easily explained. Given the prospect of stability, there was no longer any need to invest rubles in foreign exchange as quickly as possible, since the advent of the communists and inevitable hyperinflation has receded beyond the horizon. This prospect stirred up interest in state securities. According to financial market specialists, potential buyers of dollars decided to set aside their rubles to participate in the auction to float short-term state bonds, planned for 19 June.

This seems all the more likely since the state securities market also began to perk up in the light of the political events following the first round of the presidential election. On 18 June, following the news of Lebed's appointments, dealers continued to gamble on a rise in the market, and as a result the total turnover from the sale of state securities increased considerably — to R3.7 trillion. Quotations for federal loan bonds, foreign currency bonds, and bonds issued to cover Russia's foreign debts increased.

Not for nothing have interbank credit rates risen to 200 percent of late. Participants in the share market rushed to borrow money to buy state securities. In particular short-term state bonds. Since the economic cataclysms have clearly been postponed, treasury bonds are destined to have a long life. So their prices will increase and they will become less profitable. Consequently, you have to buy state short-term bonds at today's low prices.

Russia: Central Bank Official Links Recent Problems With Elections

LD2306090996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0754 GMT 23 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 23 (Interfax) — Russian financial problems that many link with the Central Bank's recent decisions are in fact resultant from the election campaign fever, Central Bank First Deputy Governor Sergey Aleksashenko told the Interfax-AiF financial weekly whose next edition will appear on Monday, June 24.

The election campaign atmosphere is not the only one but one of they reasons for present financial difficulties, Aleksashenko said. The situation in any country of the world cannot be stable on the eve of elections, he added.

The situation in Russia is unclear not only because the outcome of the presidential elections is unclear but also because a government reshuffle is likely to be launched in any case. This means that the economic policy will also be somewhat corrected, Aleksashenko said.

Russia: Consumer Price Inflation Continues To Decline

MM2406091696 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Jun 96 Saturday Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Inflation Within 0.3 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the State Committee for Statistics, inflation in Russia in the period 11 through 17 June stood at 0.3 percent, maintaining the previous week's level. In the period from the beginning of the year through 17 June consumer prices in the country had increased by 15.0 percent.

According to State Committee for Statistics experts' calculations, provided that the current rate of price increases persists through the end of the month, June inflation in Russia will total 1.2 percent, against 1.6 percent in May. In the first 17 days of June consumer prices rose by 0.7 percent. In 1996 as a whole inflation is forecast to be around 24 percent (it was 131 percent in 1995).

The rate of increase in food prices in June coincides with the rate of inflation: Last week (11 through 17 June) food prices rose by 0.3 percent, up 0.7 percent since the beginning of the month. Nonfood commodity prices rose more slowly: by 0.2 percent and 0.6 percent respectively. The increase in the rates for paid consumer services in the first 17 days of June outstripped the rate of inflation in this period to reach 0.8 percent; however, the bulk of the increase occurred during the first few days of the month, and it remained at 0.2 percent during the last two weeks (4-10 June and 11- 17 June).

International Affairs

Ukraine: Udovenko on Impact of Russian Elections

WS2106134896 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 20 Jun 96 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko by Tetyana Sylina; place and date not given: "Hennadiy Udovenko: Whatever the Outcome of the Russian Elections, There Can Be No Return to the 'Cold War'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Following sappers, diplomats are certainly the most careful people. They are most careful in their assessments of events taking place in another state, particularly if this state is a "strategic partner," and particularly if this partner is Russia. Nevertheless, Ukraine's chief diplomat Hennadiy Udovenko has agreed to answer a few questions from KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI concerning the elections in the Russian Federation.**

[Sylina] Hennadiy Yosyfovych, the results of the first round showed that Yeltsin and Zyuganov have almost equal chances of winning. Did the Ukrainian leadership not rush by openly supporting Yeltsin? Will this stance not damage Ukraine in case of Zyuganov's victory? After all, no Western leader has named specific names while talking about support for democratic reforms in Russia.

[Udovenko] Such support from the Ukrainian leadership confirms that we conduct our own independent policy and that we make statements proceeding from the interests of our state. We support not only forces which are implementing democratic and economic reforms in Russia, but also a specific reformer. It is easy to support reforms without naming names. Since the very beginning (when we submitted a written proposal to elect Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to the office of CIS chairman), we have consistently been supporting the current Russian president.

[Sylina] But perhaps Zyuganov's victory would be more advantageous for Ukraine? As it is, Russian capital is already being pumped into our country. Moreover, being afraid of strong communist influence on Ukraine and the possibility of restoration of the Soviet Union, the West would exert maximum effort to help Ukraine quickly integrate with Europe. If Yeltsin wins, the West will calm down, and will again attach its main attention (including investments) to Russia. And Ukraine, having once again ended up in the shadow of its large neighbor, will have to resolve all of its problems independently.

[Udovenko] (Sighs) But I am an official representative of the country and a government member. Currently, I cannot publicly assess this or that outcome. We held a briefing on Monday [17 July], and discussed the results of the first round and their impact on Ukraine. We are studying this issue. We should not draw any hasty conclusions.

The main thing is that our policy is based on the fact that Ukraine is an independent and sovereign state. And our partners should understand this regardless of who wins in the Russian elections.

The point of our state's strategic course is that, on the one hand, we should integrate with European structures, being a European state, and on the other hand, we should develop good neighborly relations with our large northern neighbor, though on a parity basis.

[Sylina] Both our president and you have said that Russia's pressure on Ukraine will continue regardless of the outcome of the elections. In which directions do you think this pressure will be strongest?

[Udovenko] First of all, this certainly relates to the problems of Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. I would not even speak about any pressure, but Russia is consistently being guided by its interests with regard to the issue of the Black Sea Fleet's deployment and its terms.

Second, Russia is confidently sticking to the course of deepened integration within the CIS. This can be confirmed by documents signed within the framework of the Commonwealth. However, Ukraine says that it is necessary to expand cooperation on both a bilateral and multilateral basis, both within and outside the CIS.

[Sylina] How may the process of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations be affected by the introduction of a clause in the Constitution prohibiting the deployment of foreign troops (bases) on Ukrainian territory?

[Udovenko] This clause will surely be useful for participants in the negotiations (from the Ukrainian side — Tetyana Sylina). If the Constitution does not allow something, then.... But the main point is that it is necessary to search for a mutually advantageous and mutually acceptable resolution. I do not agree with some politicians who call for removing the Russian fleet from Sevastopol and expelling it to Russia. In the end, we are neighbors, historically we cooperated. It is impossible to simply throw the Russian fleet out. There is no need for such a decision. Moreover, such a decision does not conform to the existing situation.

[Sylina] Do you think that Boris Yeltsin may use the period between the election rounds to visit Kiev to gain additional points before the decisive moment?

[Udovenko] I do not think so. However, I have stated more than once: We are ready to receive Boris Nikolayevich in Kiev any time. But his visit is impossible in practice. The time between the election rounds is too short, while Boris Nikolayevich needs to make more trips to the "red belt" and conduct a vigorous election campaign there. As for Ukraine, it does not belong to the "red belt" in which a campaign must be conducted. It seems to me that a trip to Kiev would not provide Boris Nikolayevich with more votes.

[Sylina] Let us look at the situation from an international perspective. What is the probability that the world may return to the Cold War if the Communists win in Russia and the Republicans in the United States?

[Udovenko] If you posed this question to my American counterpart, he would answer: "No comment." [preceding quoted in English] You proceed from a premise which I do not accept. I look at the future more calmly. There can be no return to the Cold War, irrespective of any outcome. There may be some complications in some question or another, but there can be no fundamental changes — as people used to say before — in the political course chosen by the nations of the world. We have become not only witnesses of, but also participants in the creation of those advantages that were brought by the post-confrontation period.

[Sylina] Nevertheless, Hennadiy Iosyfovych, is there any plan of action in Ukraine worked out for the event the Communists win in Russia?

[Udovenko] (Laughs.) You are trying once again to learn something that bears the "top secret" stamp. If I answer that no such program exists, you will say: "What politicians are you after all?" If I answer that it does, you may say: "Aha, you are doubting Yeltsin's victory!" We are not doubting Boris Nikolayevich's victory. And we have a program, a program of expanded cooperation with the Russian Federation.

Ukraine: Kuchma: Russian Election Will Not Change Kiev's Policy

LD2206134196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian president is convinced that at present there are no grounds whatsoever to amend Ukraine's foreign policy course, in particular its non-aligned status. He made this statement at a meeting with editors of all-Ukrainian mass media on 22 June. "Psychologically, we are prepared for a more rigid policy of Russia towards Ukraine. No matter who becomes Russian president — Yeltsin or Zyuganov — Ukraine's policy towards Russia will be the same," the president said. At the same time, he pointed out that Zyuganov "will also be interested in maintaining normal relations with Ukraine."

Kuchma spoke out against the stationing of foreign military bases in Ukraine. However, "this is a matter of the distant future," he said. "The Russian Black Sea Fleet base in Crimea, in Sevastopol in particular, does exist and we cannot but deal with this," Kuchma said.

Ukraine: Kiev Against New NATO Members Having Nuclear Weapons

LD2206153996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WARSAW, June 22 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine will never accept the possibility of the stationing of nuclear weapons on the territory of new NATO members, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said in Warsaw on June 21 during an international conference launched by NATO.

This problem is of special importance for Ukraine as the country that has recently completed the destruction of the world's third major nuclear potential, Udovenko said.

The conclusion of an agreement on a nuclear-free zone in Central and East Europe would be an important factor of stability in Europe, he believes. The creation of such nuclear-free zones in Central and East Europe will help "stregnthen confidence and stability in the region" and correspond with NATO's policy for freeing Europe from nuclear weapons, Udovenko said.

European stability and security is especially important for Ukraine because of the country's "sensitive geopolitical situation," he said.

NATO enlargement will "play its positive role in moving the westen security and stability zone toward the East" and streghening security in the entire region only if it is "not an isolated development," Udovenko said.

NATO enlargement must be accompanied by the development of relations between NATO and Russia and Ukraine, he believes. Partnership between Russia and NATO must be part of the general process of strengthening European security, Udovenko said.

Ukraine considers NATO enlargement as part of the comprehensive process of the construction of a new European security architecture that also includes the European Union's enlargement, Udovenko said.

Ukraine: Security Secretary Dislikes Foreign Troops Amendment

MK2206092196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jun 96 p 3

[NEGA report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of the Security Council under the Ukrainian president, negatively assessed the amendment to draft constitution of the republic on banning the deployment of foreign military bases on Ukrainian territory. At the same time, in Volodymyr Horbulin's view, raising this question "has all the grounds for existence." However, in his words, "having the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Crimea, Ukraine has cornered itself by such a norm." Mr. Horbulin underlined that approving such a proposition might hamper the solution of the Black Sea Fleet question. The secretary of the Security Council under Ukraine's president stated that the deputies are supposed to assess the actual circumstances in drafting a constitution.

In the opinion of Mykhaylo Sirota, chairman of the Supreme Rada special ad hoc commission for fine-tuning the draft constitution, a possible option in resolving this issue would be a rider to the "Transition Provisions" section, regulating the putting into effect of the norm on banning the presence of foreign troops in Ukraine.

Ukraine: Kostenko Criticizes Slowness of Loans for Chernobyl Closure

LD2106164196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 21 Jun 96

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 21 (Itar-Tass) — Ukraine is dissatisfied with the time-table of loans from the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Ukrainian Environment and Nuclear Safety Minister Yuriy Kostenko told a conference today that the slow-coming loans may bar the closure of the Chernobyl plant by 2000.

Kostenko held the conference over his talks with the U.S. administration and Washington-based international financial institutions.

He said Ukraine, spending over 800 million dollars yearly to manage the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, has no funds for the plant's closure.

He called on the U.S. to take part in profitable closure projects with estimated worth of 2.6 billion dollars and in non-profit programmes costing 500 million dollars.

Kostenko said Ukraine is ready to shut down the plant's first reactor this year with the proviso of international assistance.

The G-7 countries had promised Ukraine 3.1 billion dollars but had not provided a single cent so far, according to Kostenko.

In addition, Ukraine needs funds to launch nuclear reactors of the Khmelnitskaya and Rivnenskaya nuclear plants to compensate for power losses inherent in the closure of the Chernobyl plant.

Kostenko complained that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development had set a loan time-table which allows to consider the launching of new reactors only in June of the next year.

He conceded that the U.S. had shown a readiness for further discussion of the Chernobyl plant's closure.

"However, the American side has no certainty about sources and time of financing (the closure project)," Kostenko said.

Ukraine: Minister: U.S. Not Ready To Finance Chernobyl Closure

WS2406084096 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0722 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On June 21 Minister of the Environment Protection and Nuclear Safety of Ukraine Yuriy Kostenko who is just back from a working visit to the USA said in a press conference that the United States are not ready to render financial help to Ukraine to compensate for the closure of Chernobyl nuclear power station since Congress has not yet passed the required law.

In the talk with John Collins, State Department coordinator of links with NIS [newly independent states], Yuriy Kostenko stressed that Ukraine is spending $800 million annually for the liquidation of Chernobyl disaster results, which makes it very difficult for Ukraine to find the funds needed for Chernobyl station closure. The Ukrainian Minister called on the American partners to participate both in some profit projects worth $2,6 billion, and in some non-profit projects worth $500 million directed at station closure and construction of new power blocks.

Special Presidential adviser on aid to FSU [former Soviet Union] countries Richard Morningstar in a talk with Yuriy Kostenko suggested a ministerial summit on Ukraine's energy problems late July. In Yu. Kostenko's view, the summit should discuss how to compensate for the losses of energy production resulting from Block 1 closure which accounts for the 4 percent of the total Ukrainian output and which is to be closed in 1996. Purchases of fuel for thermoelectric power stations will be high on the agenda, the Minister also thinks. Richard Morningstar also informed that Vice President Al Gore sent a letter to President Kuchma with a proposal to set up a special joint US-Ukrainian commission on multilateral cooperation, similar to the one created between Russia and the US (Gore-Chernomyrdin commission).

Yuriy Kostenko also stressed that the schedule of Chernobyl earmarked credits suggested by the World Bank and the European Bank for the Reconstruction and Development for July 1997 will hardly be acceptable for Ukraine, since there will be no time left for the completion of new energy blocks at Rivne and Khmelnytskyy nuclear power-stations which would compensate for energy production drop. That inevitably questions the intended closure of the Chernobyl station by 2000. "Unless Rivne and Khmelnytskyy nuclear power stations start operation in 1997 Ukraine will have to pay through the nose for her electricity generated at thermal stations." [sentence as received] The Minister denied any allegations that VVER-100 reactors to be installed at new power blocks do not meet modern safety standards.

Ukraine: Joint Communique on Ukrainian-Kyrgyz Talks Issued

WS2406084896 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0722 GMT 24 Jun 96

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to reports from the press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan have issued a joint communique on the outcome of Ukrainian-Kyrgyz negotiations in Kiev. Following are the contents of the joint communique:

Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev paid an official visit to Ukraine from June 18 to 19 by invitation of Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma.

During the visit, the two sides held negotiations on a wide range of issues involving bilateral cooperation and international problems, they exchanged information about the internal situation in their countries as well as on the progress of democratic and economic reforms.

The two sides noted that they shared similar views on many of the issues discussed. They also emphasized the need for further development of bilateral relations on the basis of the traditional economic, humanitarian, and cultural ties between Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. The two sides also emphasized the need for greater cooperation within international organizations.

The two sides signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation and a number of other intergovernmental documents, including an agreement on development of economic cooperation, a production cooperation agreement, an agreement on cooperation in training scientific and teaching personnel, an agreement on sporting and cultural cooperation, and an agreement on the principles of cooperation in the sphere of production and supply of aviation equipment in the 1996-2001 period.

Particular importance was paid to the issue of further development of trade and economic ties during the Kiev negotiations. This will be enhanced by the Ukrainian-Kyrgyz intergovernmental agreement on development of economic cooperation. The two sides noted the vastness of unused cooperation opportunities and emphasized their readiness to perfect the existing and search for new forms of cooperation in this sphere. The efforts of the Ukrainian-Kyrgyz trading house will be directed at achieving this goal.

The two sides also discussed the current tendencies in the development of the CIS.

During negotiations between the two parties, particular attention was paid to the cultural and spiritual needs of ethnic minorities on the territories of the two countries and the issue of voluntary return of deportees to Ukraine.

The two sides described the outcome of the negotiations as constructive and positive and expressed conviction that implementation of the agreements reached in Kiev will substantially enable the strengthening of traditional friendly ties between the two countries.

Ukraine: Brazilian Cooperation Sought in Launching Satellites

WS2406102496 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0310 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 21 — Ukraine and Brazil are examining the possibilities of launching Ukrainian satellites from Brazil's Alkanatra Space Center, according to Deputy Chairman of the National Space Agency Valeriy Komarov, who returned this week from a trip to Brazil.

Ukraine has proposed four main directions of cooperation in space development to Brazil, using Ukrainian satellites and the Brazilian Alkanatra space center, Ukrainian engines for Brazilian rockets, as well as joint scientific and research investigation.

Komarov said the satellites for Earth surface investigation which are now operating in Brazil use a form of aerial photography, while Ukrainian satellites can use a locator for surface investigations, the latter of which can provide clearer images of atmospheric fronts and climatic conditions as well as mineral locations. He said the newer technology would be especially beneficial for Brazil since surface investigations of the Amazon are not yet developed.

Komarov said that Pivdenne Design Office in Dnepropetrovsk can provide Brazil with technologies for rocket engines which operate with liquid fuel as opposed to solid fuel.

To develop capabilities from Brazil's Alkanatra space center, which is situated almost on the equator, Komarov said that Ukraine and Brazil would have to seek investors to participate in the project, and he noted that Russia has already negotiated similar co-operation with the American Lockheed Corporation. He added that a second U.S. company, Rockwell, is also interested in Ukrainian possibilities in this area.

The Space Agency of Brazil is expected to complete its study of the Ukrainian proposals by September this year, after which representatives of the agency will visit Ukraine.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kiev Accused of Deceiving Council of Europe on Citizenship

LD2106214796 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian
1930 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — People's Deputy Volodymyr Alekseyev, deputy head of the Supreme Council Commission for Legislative Safeguards of the Freedom of Speech and the Mass Media, described today as a straight deception of the Council of Europe the adoption of Article 4 of the draft Constitution of Ukraine ("There is a single citizenship in Ukraine. The grounds for acquiring and losing Ukrainian citizenship are defined by a law"), "because by adopting it the parliament violated the obligations undertaken by Ukraine before the Council of Europe," Alekseyev noted.

According to Alekseyev, the appendix to the address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe signed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, and Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz, which was received by the assembly on 15 August 1995, stated that Ukraine recognizes as expedient to propose that dual citizenship treaties should be concluded with the former Soviet republics that will agree to it. It is not excluded that such a treaty could be concluded on a multilateral basis.

Alekseyev believes that "through refusing to review amendments aimed to implement this obligation before the Council of Europe, a barrier has been created on the path of the carrying out by our country of the obligations taken upon itself, which will not do any good for its reputation in the world and will create an image of a country that does not respect its obligations. I believe, Alekseyev noted, that it is necessary to return to Article 4 and to consider those amendments, which will make it possible for Ukraine to carry out its obligations before the Council of Europe, in particular, in ensuring the right to dual citizenship."

Ukraine: Kuchma Against Immediate Ban on Foreign Bases

LD2206165096 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1453 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 22 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has spoken against a constitutional ban on foreign military bases in Ukraine and the immediate enforcement of the ban after the approval of the constitution.

He expressed his opinion in Kiev Saturday during the recording of a weekly TV show.

"I share the idea of having no foreign bases in Ukraine and making the Black sea a zone of peace," he said but added reality is such that such bases exist.

"It would be better either not to inscribe such a provision in the constitution at all, or imply the enforcement of this article after a transitional period," the president said.

Ukraine: ICBM Dismantling Shop To Be Put Into Operation 15 Jul

WS2406084796 Lvov INFOBANK in English
0722 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The shop where ICBM's are to be dismantled will be opened at "Pivdenne" engineering plant (Dnepropetrovsk) on July 15. 136 missiles will be dismantled in the coming two years. The shop was built with US Government assistance and uses the latest American know-how.

Ukraine: Parliament Debates New Constitution Draft

LD2106170596 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1539 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine's parliament passed a number of clauses of the republican constitution today. It was the second reading of the document.

One of the clauses calls "Ukraine is a republic." Another stipulates that "the right to determine and change constitutional structure in Ukraine belongs exclusively to the people and cannot be usurped by the state, its organs or officials."

At the morning session, deputies decided that the country's new fundamental law be named Ukraine's Constitution.

Constitutional majority supported a point on single citizenship.

At the same time, deputies repealed a number of provisions, including that on the unitary structure of Ukraine, on Ukrainian as the one and only official language in the republic, and on People's Council as the new name for republican parliament.

Deputies objected to the first lines of the preamble, proposed by the interim commission, set up to complete the draft constitution. These lines read "We, Ukrainian people, citizens of all nationalities in Ukraine."

Nor was a proposal by a group of lawmakers to change the words "Ukrainian people" for "the people of Ukraine" proved acceptable.

Speaker Oleksandr Moroz suggested that the preamble be discussed after the last document's section has been reviewed since, as he put it, the preamble's wording "means the adoption of the constitution at a referendum."

The preamble says: "We, Ukrainian people endorse this constitution — Ukraine's fundamental law."

Moroz put his motion to vote, and it was carried.

However, right after that the rostrum was blocked by representatives of People's Rukh, Ukraine's nationalist organization, insisting that the decision was adopted with breaches of the debate procedure. The blockage lasted for about 40 minutes.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Ethics Commission Petr Sheiko took the floor and accused Moroz of "provoking the situation."

Moroz was compelled to put the preamble for a new vote. As a result, legislators decided to examine the constitution "as an integral document."

Parliament will resume constitutional debates on Monday.

Ukraine: Kuchma To Make Decision on New Constitution 'Next Week'

LD2206100796 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0845 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Today, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, and Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko laid wreathes at the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Kiev's Park of Glory, in memory of those who died in the Great Patriotic War.

In conversation with Kiev residents, Kuchma said that a decision on the state's constitution will be made next week. However, he did not specify what decision he has in mind. At the same time, the president said a second reading of the fundamental law in parliament "went into a dead-end street." Kuchma said deputies failed to approve the provision saying: "We, the Ukrainian nation" in the constitution's preamble.

The president confirmed that wages to the employees of budget-funded enterprises, as well as pensions and grants, will increase from 1 July.

Ukraine: High-Ranking Crimean Delegation Holds Talks With Kuchma

AU2106170396 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 20 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "To Kiev 'To Be Dealt With'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Today [20 June], Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma will meet with a delegation of the Crimean Autonomous Republic.** The delegation includes Yevhen Suprunyuk, Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council; Arkadiy Demydenko, prime minister of the autonomy; Dmytro Stepanyuk, permanent presidential representative in the Crimea; Refat Chubarov, deputy speaker of the Crimean parliament; and Osman Adamanov, chairman of the governmental Commission for Issues of Nationalities and deputy of the Crimean parliament. According to Refat Chubarov, during the meeting with the Ukrainian president, the main attention will be given to the question of return of the deported population. Issues associated with adoption of the Constitution will also be discussed.

Ukraine: Crimean Tatar Leader Sees Increasing Radicalization

WS2406102396 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0045 GMT 24 Jun 96

[By Lilya Budzhurova, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, June 23 — Crimean Tatars may become more radical in the face of unfulfilled aspirations, Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev told INTELNEWS.

Dzhemilev, speaking during a break at an organizing session for an upcoming Kurultay (Congress) of the Crimean Tatar people, said that he didn't "exclude the possibility of election to the new Medzhlis (assembly) of people who disagree with policies of permanent compromise and that they will demand radicalization of the national movement."

Dzhemilev, who as head of the current Medzhlis is recognized as the leader of the Crimean Tatars, a group deported to Central Asia by Joseph Stalin and since facing difficulties returning to their homeland, conceded that movement leaders were at least in part to blame for his pessimistic prognosis.

"One can treat it in many ways, but it is difficult to oppose the fact that no compromise of ours resolved a single problem of ours."

The Tatars, who will be able to select a new leadership when the congress convenes later this summer, contend they are the victims of discrimination by the peninsula's predominantly ethnic Russian population. Hundreds of thousands of them are either homeless or living in dire poverty, and report difficulty in obtaining Ukrainian citizenship in an effort to enforce their rights.

On the congress agenda, which was set over the weekend, is a report on Medzhlis activities over the past four years; a report of the Kurultay parliamentary faction for four years; votes on decisions on practical issues for return and settlement of Tatars to Crimea and restoration of their political rights.

Issues of recovery of national school and medical treatment of those who have returned are expected to be discussed. Elections for a new Medzhlis is to be a key focus (the group now consists of 33 people, 10 of whom are also Crimean parliament deputies). A Medzhlis head is also to be elected.

Belarus

Belarus: Yeltsin Addresses Brest People on Community, NATO

LD2206113596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1129 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BREST, June 22 (Interfax) — "I am in Brest today because a great victory began here," President Yeltsin declared in that Belarusian hero city at today's ceremony, marking 55 years since the start of the Great Patriotic War on June 22, 1941.

Paying tribute to the sons and daughters of 30 nationalities for nearly a month of their resistance to German fascist invaders, Yeltsin said that their "selfless courage became a symbol of staunchness and heroism."

On this day, "we must remember the contribution to the victory over fascism by our allies, intrepid resistance fighters of the nations of enslaved but not conquered Europe," Yeltsin said, urging "to keep and treasure peace — the greatest asset of humanity."

Adherence to common values "have brought Russia, other CIS countries, Europe, and the Americas closer than ever before," Yeltsin said, noting, however, that "the horizon of our cooperation is not so cloudless."

"Special anxiety stems from NATO's expansion, its advance to the border of the Russian-Belarusian Community," Yeltsin said, calling for "a single and peaceful Europe, for mutual trust on the continent."

"Today as never before, it is obvious that the Russian and Belarusian peoples need unity and cohesion to guarantee solutions to the most complex problems," facing the two nations, Yeltsin stressed.

Although the Russian-Belarusian Community is only about three years old, "citizens of the two countries have received equal rights to education, medical help, employment, housing exchange," president said, adding that "these are just the early fruit of this activity."

"Today, we believe that we will restore prosperity to Russia and Belarus," Yeltsin declared.

Belarus: Yeltsin Maps Out Integration Priorities With Belarus

LD2206135396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, June 22 (Interfax) — Russia and Belarus has a common aim: to do so that our countries and our peoples will not feel separated, so that there will be no obstacles between the two countries, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at the session of the Supreme Council of the Community between Russia and Belarus in Brest on Saturday.

"Our Community launched its first moves precisely in this direction," Yeltsin said.

The Community's joint organs — the Supreme Council, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Executive Committee — have been created and are now functioning, he said. The two countries have also worked out and approved a program of priority measures to implement the treaty on the creation of the Community.

"Today we agreed on the immediate introduction of equal rights concerning employment and wages," Yeltsin said.

The Russian Government has proposed that the Belarusian side "determine four or five major companies that Russia might help to keep afloat," Yeltsin said. Belarus has prepared a list including 23 companies with an investment program worth a total of over 3 trillion rubles. Russia is now incapable of assuming such financial obligations, Yeltsin conceded. He spoke out in favor of "a gradual approach" because "financial problems are the most difficult problems in the management of the Community but reserves need to be found."

"Life itself shows us that Russia and Belarus just could not do without closer inter-state relations," Yeltsin said.

He said he was confident that the model of integration developed by Moscow and Minsk "has a great future in the entire Commonwealth [of Independent States]."

Belarus: Yeltsin Speech Commemorates 'Remembrance Day'

LD2206140996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1042 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at Brest Fortress on 22 June on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the start of World War II - live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends. Dear brothers — Belarusians. Dear veterans. Esteemed president of the republic. Esteemed representatives of the member states of the Commonwealth of the Independent States. Friends, Russia and Belarus are marking Remembrance Day today. This is a sacred day for our peoples. The past 55 years have not diminished our grief which entered the house of almost every family. Here, in the hero-town of Brest, Hitler's army met with an unprecedented resistance. The courage and heroism of defenders of the Brest Fortress stunned the enemy. The great victory started in Brest. That is why, today I am here, in Brest. The war covered in blood and turned to ashes thousands of our towns and villages. It burst into every family and crushed the lives of millions of people. We bow our heads in honor of those who died in the years of the Great Patriotic War and who gave their lives for our freedom. Today we... [unidentified voice interrupts and apologizes for the poor sound quality caused by problems in the satellite link]

The Belarusians did not escape this fate either. You came to know the spiked boot of Hitler's servicemen who seized your motherland, but never conquered it. The people's angry response was frightening for the occupants. The Belarusians were taking vengeance on their enemy by their mass partisan movement. Today we are remembering partisans who died for the freedom of Belarus. We are remembering the legendary partisan (Petr Mironovich Masherov)... [break in audio transmisssion]

(?Any) war means grief and suffering. It is a fierce and merciless battle. Everyone who is either at the front or in rear services or on occupied territories has his share of suffering, his own heavy burden to carry, his own torment. Today we bow our heads in memory of those who 55 years ago fought to the last ditch in the fiery hell of the Brest Fortress, defending the sacred right to live. Worthy sons and daughters of 30 nationalities were heroically fighting shoulder to shoulder here and stayed forever in the Brest soil. Their selfless courage is a symbol of staunchness and heroism. Let us bow our heads before the graves of those killed. Let us remember them. The bells of remembrance are ringing in Russia and Belarus today.

On a day like this we are even more aware of how much we owe to our veterans. Your generation carried the main burden of the war on its shoulders. I wish you all long life and good health. Peace was earned at too high a price. Our filial duty is to guard it sacredly.

It is particularly important now when NATO's expansion and NATO's movement closer to the community of Russia and Belarus worry our peoples. They do not want a new confrontation, new demarcation lines on the continent. We are for a single peaceful Europe, for mutual trust on the continent. Today, as never before, it is clear that the Belarusian and Russian peoples need unity. Our community [agreements] have been in existence for only about three months, but in this period of time the citizens of Russia and Belarus were granted equal rights to education, medical aid, employment and housing exchange. These are just our first steps. Unity and and faith have always been strong in our two peoples since time immemorial. In June 1941 we believed in victory and we were victorious. Today we believe that we will restore a prosperous Russia and a prosperous Belarus. I wish well-being and prosperity to our peoples. Thank you. [applause]

Belarus: Lukashenka, Yeltsin Work for Greater Integration

LD2206161296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, June 22 (Interfax-West) — At their Saturday meeting in Brest, Belarus, President Boris Yeltsin and his Belarussian counterpart Alyaksandr Lukashenka appointed Anatoliy Kruglov, the chairman of the Russian Customs Committee, the joint chief of the customs services of the two countries.

The appointment was announced at a joint news conference of the two presidents in Brest.

According to Lukashenka, the enforcement of the decision will require a one month preparatory period.

Yeltsin said the Saturday session of the Supreme Council of the Community of Russia and Belarus allowed to coordinate their economic reforms. "We can and must synchronize economic reforms. This serves the interests of our countries and the community," he said.

Lukashenka added that there can be no hidden meaning directed against Belarus in this sphere. He named many examples of the pooling of resources and capitals of Russian and Belarussian companies that are forming a mechanism of coordinating reforms equally beneficial for Minsk and Moscow.

The Belarussian leader said the principles of the Community give equal possibilities to young people from the two countries to study in the colleges and universities of Russia and Belarus.

At the end of the news conference Yeltsin's press secretary Sergey Medvedev said all the six items discussed by the presidents and the Supreme Council of the Community were approved unanimously.

He drew the attention of the press to the fact that under an agreement of the two sides Russia will earmark 8 billion rubles for a program of minimizing the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

According to Medvedev, it was also decided to jointly fund the reconstruction of the war memorial in the fortress of Brest. Russia and Belarus will invest $300,000 in the project each.

After the news conference Lukashenka offered a reception in honor of the Russian president and invited to it war veterans who defended the Brest fortress in 1941.

Saturday evening Yeltsin is due to fly to Kaliningrad region, the Russian exclave on the Baltic.

Belarus: Yeltsin Press Spokesman on Agreements With Belarus

WS2406083696 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 22 June a news conference took place devoted to the results of a session of the Higher Council of Community of Belarus and Russia. The news conference was attended by the presidents of both countries. The press secretary of the Russian president, Sergey Medvedev, noted that the Higher Council session reached an agreement on free exchange of housing on the territory of the Community. Both sides renounced the right of applying the status of foreigners with regard to the citizens of the two countries. It was also resolved that Russia will earmark 8 billion Russian rubles for liquidating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. An agreement was also reached regarding the creation of a customs committee of the Community, to which Anatol Kruglov was appointed head. For a major renovation of the war memorial in the heroic fortress of Brest, the sides resolved to allot $300,000 each.

Belarus: Lukashenka Finds Rapprochement With Russia 'Irreversible'

LD2206124596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BREST, June 22 (Interfax) - "The rapprochement of Belarus and Russia is an irreversible process," Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka declared at a Saturday meeting with Boris Yeltsin in Brest.

He said the two presidents would do their utmost for the consistent and purposeful integration of their countries.

The people of Belarus are very receptive to brotherly relations with Russia, Lukashenka said.

"I address Yeltsin as a person close to me: hard days have come to Russia and Belarus. But we will cope and soon our nations will live better," the president said.

Yeltsin came to Brest for a ceremony timed to the 55th anniversary of the beginning World War Two in Soviet territory.

"It makes no difference whether Russians or Kazakhs died defending Brest, the main thing is that people of different nationalities fought for their common motherland and won," Lukashenka said.

Wreaths were brought to the graves of the defenders of Brest and a memorial service was conducted in the main square of the fortress of Brest Saturday.

The presidents of Russia and Belarus exchanged replicas of the flag of victory and the flag of the Brest fortress. The ceremony was followed by their one on one meeting. Both delegations told Interfax the meeting would be as long as necessary.

The Supreme Council of the Community of Russia and Belarus was to meet at about 4 p.m. Moscow time. And after it the two presidents promised to answer several questions from the press.

In the evening Lukashenka is to hold an official reception in Yeltsin's honor.

The Russian leader is expected to depart for Kaliningrad, the Russian exclave on the Baltic, at about 7 p.m.

Belarus: Lukashenka Addresses War, Future in Brest Fortress

LD2206142496 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1035 GMT 22 Jun 96

[Speech by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka at Brest Fortress on 22 June on the occasion of the anniversary of the start of World War II — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Brest residents and servicemen of the armed forces of the Republic of Belarus, today, 22 June, when we in Belarus are marking a day of grief and memory for the heroes and martyrs of the cruel war, we are welcoming our dear guests to the sacred fraternal land — a state delegation from the fraternal Russia led by Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and delegations from all the CIS countries. We are welcoming ambassadors and military attaches of the countries of the anti- Hitler coalition — our allies in the joint struggle against fascism — and representatives of the diplomatic corps. My particularly warm greetings are for representatives of the friendly Poland — the country taht was the first to be attacked by Hitler's military machine and which fought bravely for all the six long years of World War II. We are grateful to all who have shown their respect for the heroic land of Brest Fortress by their presence. It is here, on the western border of our Motherland, on 22 June 1941, the valorous defenders of Brest Fortress were among the first in Belarus to receive fierce attacks of German fascist infantry and tank divisions, 10 times stronger than themselves.

From day one of the war, the defenders of Brest Fortress were beating off six to eight brutal enemy attacks a day. Nevertheless, despite all that, just in the first nine days of the defense of the fortress our warriors managed to put out of action nearly 1,500 soldiers and officers of the enemy. Fully surrounded, without water and food, suffering acute shortage of ammunition and medicines, the multi-ethnic garrison of the fortress accomplished one of the greatest heroic feats in the history of the Great Patriotic War and World War II as a whole. The defense of the fortress testifies to the bravery and determination of the Soviet people. We, living now, are paying our tribute to the memory of the valorous defenders of Brest Fortress.

Time's flow is merciless. There are fewer and fewer of those who defended Brest Fortress during those first days. This is why those who have come on this June day to today's meeting from all the corners of the CIS are so dear and close to us. We are not just paying our tribute to the feats of the heroes, but are also looking with hope into their future. All of us — people belonging to different nations and generations, believers and atheists, supporters of different views and ideologies — have one aim and concern in common — to build a better world, to preserve our freedom, and to provide a happy future for generations after us. Let the grief and the pain of loss felt for all the victims of the terrible and devastating war make us stronger in the tireless and laborious work on strengthening our common home — the Earth — to save it from destructions and enmity.

The people of the former USSR are still united by an unshakeable desire to live as friends and to help each other, to create history together, and to solve problems. The Belarusian people have always been open to the high ideas of fraternity, mutual help, and cooperation. Their aspiration to be united with the fraternal Russia was convincingly confirmed at the national referendum in May 1995. Our countries have since accomplished a lot on the path of integration. The leadership of Russia and Belarus have recently signed in Moscow extremely important documents which determine the principles and the main directions of our future integration and our rapprochement in all spheres. A new voluntary union of states is now taking shape — a new community based on trust and understanding. Therefore, I am firmly convinced that the processes of rapprochement between the fraternal Russia and Belarus and other countries of the former Union are becoming irreversible. The will of our people is in it. We politicians, cultural activists, and clergy will do our utmost to implement that will.

This is what the heroic defenders of Brest Fortress dreamt about. Let us remember that we are eternally indebted to them. Let us remember those who, on 22 June, were the first to defend freedom and independence under the walls of Brest Fortress.

Dear Boris Nikolayevich, I am addressing you as our people's close friend. You are now living through difficult days. However, you saw for yourself while driving through Brest that these days will end soon with your success. Let me wish you the main thing — health and good mood, health for your family and your wonderful children and grandchildren.

Belarus: Jun 22 Marked as Day of Remembrance, Mourning

LD2206144496 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1425 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, June 22 (Interfax-West) — The 55th anniversary of the beginning of the war of the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany was marked in Belarus Saturday as a national day of remembrance and mourning.

Despite heavy rainfalls over 10,000 war veterans and local residents joined a procession in the capital Minsk, the Interior Ministry reports.

Members of the presidential administration, parliament and cabinet brought wreaths to the war monument in Victory square.

On the same day the opposition Popular Front held an authorized procession and rally.

Law enforcement bodies say about 2,500 people took part.

A message from the front leader Zenon Poznyak now staying in Poland was read out at the rally. It described the current developments in Belarus as "pro-Moscow fascization."

"Communist fascism raising its head in Russia is a serious threat to the independence of Belarus," Poznyak said.

According to the Minsk police, the mass actions in the city were peaceful and public order was not violated.

Belarus: Lukashenka: Presidential Elections All About Power, Money

LD2106195096 Moscow NTV in Russian
1800 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka has raised a new row that could have international consequences. It was reported earlier that Lukashenka had taken a very critical view of the election in Russia, saying that the Russian people had not accepted the reforms offered them in recent years and therefore, the majority of voters had voted against the current authorities. Lukashenka then categorically denied saying any such words and put them down to journalists' insinuations. But now, in a speech shown on television, Lukashenka has astonished inhabitants of the republic with new sensations and diplomats with an extremely strange assessment of the presidential election in Russia.

[Begin Lukashenka recording] I am taking the opportunity today to tell you of another truth that has been suggested by the presidential election, and also perhaps to a degree by the one in Russia [sentence as heard]. Today there is no ideological battle between Reds and Whites. All of that is alien. What there is, is a fierce, savage fight for power and money. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Belarus: Lukashenka Restricting Freedom of Movement

LD2106164296 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast by announcer Mikhail Osokin]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new row has broken out in Belarus. President [Alyaksandr] Lukashenka is once again at war with the parliament.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] A number of points in Alyaksandr Lukashenka's speech to representatives of the presidential administration, which lasted more than two hours and was broadcast late yesterday [20 June] evening on Belarusian television, provoked real interest in the republic today.

The president had sensational news for Belarusian night birds that affects very many if not all citizens of the republic. The president addressed the parliamentary deputies present at the meeting.

[Lukaskenka] Tell your colleagues that the president has introduced a requirement from the 1 July that no citizen of our state can leave the boundaries of the state without the knowledge of the authorities, and all who enter will be under [the authorities'] control. Our state has been treated as a courtyard for long enough, and things that never went on here before have now gone on long enough.

[Correspondent] The press services of the KGB, border troops, OVIR [the passport office], and even Belarus's Foreign Ministry proved to be unprepared today to comment on how controls would be toughened up from 1 July and what this would mean. Citizens of Belarus, incidentally, are already obliged to obtain a special stamp of permission for exit from and entry into their own country while state officials, including the editors of the state newspapers, have for a long time now had to request permission from the presidential administration to travel abroad.

Alyaksandr Lukashenka also announced the creation of a new presidential news and analysis structure in the regions. Its special plenipotentiary representatives are meant to supervise issues of ideological education and bring accurate information from the administration to the masses.

Furthermore, a single body will replace the multiplicity of youth organizations by the end of the year. According to the president, it will be modelled on the Komsomol [Young Communist League] only without the Komsomol's failings. [end recording]

Belarus: Sharetski, Poland's Zych Meet, Plan Roundtable Caucus

WS2406083996 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0722 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 22 June — During their meeting in the Polish town of Narewka near the Belarusian-Polish border the head of the Belarusian parliament Syamyon Sharetski and his Polish counterpart Jozef Zych reached some agreements concerning bilateral relations. According to the press office of the Supreme Soviet, they arranged for a round table in Warsaw in late September with the participation of Belarusian and Polish legislators on questions concerning European security, cooperation and integration processes on the continent. Mr Sharetski invited Jozef Zych to pay a working visit to Belarus in July this year. The Polish parliamentary leader in turn invited Syamyon Sharetski to visit Poland at his convenience. During the meeting the Polish party expressed intention to support the Republic of Belarus in its joining the Council of Europe.

Belarus: SupSov Approves Pact on Parliamentary Assembly With Russia

WS2406084196 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0722 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 21 June — The expectations that on June 21 the Supreme Soviet would consider a draft parliamentary resolution on the Hanchar incident (using firearms by police with regard to Deputy Hanchar) proved to be vain. That day the Supreme Soviet approved a bill on the transplantation of human organs and tissue and a bill on the introduction of amendments into the Law on the Denationalisation and Privatisation of State Property.

In addition, under support from the Committee on Social Policy and Labour, one more attempt by Alyaksandr Bukhvostaw to legislatively attach first and foremost payment status to wages was crowned with success. Parliament agreed to introduce such an amendment into the Law on Enterprises. In Mr Bukhvostaw's opinion, this amendment will be good for the Supreme Soviet from a political viewpoint, but he expressed doubt that the Law with this amendment would be signed by the President.

At the end of the plenary sitting, on the initiative of the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pyotr Krawchanka, the Supreme Soviet confirmed the Agreement on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Belarusian-Russian Community, signed in St. Petersburg on April 29, by a majority of 128 votes. Parliament also confirmed the composition of the Belarusian delegation of 25 MPs to the first session of the Belarusian-Russian Parliamentary Assembly which will be held in Smolensk on June 25. Among the delegation's members there are 7 members of the faction "Concord", 6 Communists and 5 Agrarians, including Syamyon Sharetski (the leader of the delegation). Civic Action and Labour of Union are represented by 3 members each. Uladzimir Hancharyk will leave for Smolensk as an independent MP.

On the initiative of Mr Krawchanka again, the June 21 plenary sitting ended with entering the point of a non-nuclear zone in Central Europe on the agenda of the session.

Belarus: Deputy Speaker Denies Presidential Charges

LD2106173896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] First Deputy Speaker Vasiliy Novikov has dismissed President Lukashenka's charges that the current parliament lacks initiative and is unproductive. Lukashenka made the charges at the national conference of the leaders of local executive bodies.

In part, Lukashenka said: "It's more than a year since Belarus held a referendum, but its results have failed to be reflected in legislation to this day."

Novikov said that the "Belarusian parliament is prepared to adjust certain articles of the constitution to the results of the 1995 referendum." IF Note: In the referendum, which President Lukashenka called in May last year most people voted for stepping up integration with Russia, changing state symbols, making Russian a second official language alongside Belarusian and empowering the president to disband parliament.

On the law-makers' behalf Novikov said that the political will of most deputies agreed with the legal expectations of the Belarusian people and of President Lukashenka, who initiated the referendum and with the attitude of the executive chain of command.

Novikov said that the idea of changing state symbols was already being discussed by the parliamentary commissions and factions. "The law-makers have no covert intentions to resist the will of the people," Novikov said.

He described as insulting President Lukashenka's charge that the "law-makers cost the country too dearly and do too little and that it took them six months to adopt one law, that on the state budget." Novikov recalled that in 54 days of full-scale sessions the Belarussian parliament passed 32 laws and 160 resolutions.

Novikov was cautious about Lukashenka's statement that none of the law-makers would go abroad as of July 1. He said that the parliament's hard currency spending, including that on sending delegations abroad was set in the budget at $1 million. He recalled that in the first half of the year the Cabinet of Ministers let parliament spend a mere $42,000. At present there is not a single cent on the parliament's hard currency account, because the Cabinet of Ministers refuses to transfer the money.

He recalled that law-makers often made trips to the European Parliament and other similar international offices at the hosts' expense. He is not certain whether international organizations would agree to fund all the costs the international contacts of the Belarusian law-makers require in the future.

Moldova

Moldova: Lebed Rumored To Replace Russian Commander in Dniester

AU2106155896 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2145 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, June 20 (INFOTAG) — The much spoken criminal case on the thefts, carrying, storing, and sales of arms and ammunition from the stores of the Dniester region-deployed Russian contingent has been remitted for further examination. Such a decision was taken by the locally-based contingent military tribunal.

By now, the military investigators have established the names of a group of officers and sergeants who had elaborated an intricate mechanism of stealing the armament from the stores. In August through December 1995, the plundering assumed a regular, large-scale character, and the thieves used to sell their trophies both inside the Dniester region and to buyers from other FSU [former Soviet Union] republics.

According to yet preliminary data, in the last four months of 1995, the gang stole a big number of grenades, various ammunition, guns, etc. At a court hearing, they confessed that they practiced thefts when on duty, and instead of guarding the arsenals, they sold them. They maintain they were never interested to learn what their clients were buying the stuff for.

Before Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Lebed was dismissed from the post of the 14th Army commander last summer, he had many times warned against the threat of plundering the arsenals after his departure. Lebed himself was an excellent guard service organizer, and there were no theft problems during his office. His successor, Lt. Gen. Valeriy Yevnevich, categorically rejected any information about weapon plundering. However, the investigation now proves the opposite.

After Lebed has been appointed Russian Security Council Secretary this week, many observers are anticipating personnel reshuffling in the Dniester-based contingent command as well. Some time earlier, rumors put it that Yevnevich may be appointed military attache in China. After Lebed's promotion, these rumors are becoming ever more realistic. The more so that the once-disgraced General Lebed has in fact dismissed his recent boss, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who appointed Yevnevich to Dniester one year ago.

Moldova: Snegur Urges Parliament To Appoint New Defense Minister

AU2106162796 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
2145 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, June 20 (INFOTAG) — President Mircea Snegur has again requested Parliament to consider the situation in the armed forces and appoint a new defense minister. The head of state took the floor at a Parliament special sitting, which was held behind closed doors today.

By taking a decision to have a closed-door session to tackle the essential issue, the forum has thus neglected its own sad experience. On 16 March 16 it held a similar "media-out" sitting, and several days later the opposition press nevertheless published its verbatim, which caused a sea of rumors, critical comments, and gossips.

Several MPs told INFOTAG that the president had reminded the prehistory of the Army situation, emphasized numerous financial violations committed by the defense ministry during the past two years and established by the State Calculation Chamber and other organs.

Snegur also reminded that on 5 March he requested the prime minister should prepare proposals concerning the defense minister's dismissal and finding a new candidacy. As no proposals followed, Commander-in-Chief Snegur issued a decree on 15 March on the dismissal of Minister Pavel Creanga from his post.

"After the Constitutional Court has recognized by decree as one not corresponding to the Constitution, I voiced my agreement with that decision. Simultaneously with that, I again requested the prime minister to improve the situation in the Armed Forces, and to appoint a new minister. The premier, who, by the Constitution, must propose a candidate for the post, has failed to do that, having referred to a necessity to consult parliamentary factions. That is why I am addressing to the forum with my request," Snegur said.

He emphasized that the situation in the Army keeps on deteriorating. Instead of taking efficient measures to improve something, Minister Creanga is advertising himself, defends the guilty, and persecutes officers who criticize him. In Snegur's words, recently the situation has substantially aggravated in the Marculesti aviation brigade, and another unit, a helicopter brigade, is on the verge of a total collapse.

His request concerning a new defense minister was backed today by Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi and several MPs. Parliament has decided it would be irrational to launch special debates on the problem, and agreed to return to the issue after Premier Sangheli has held consultations with parliamentary factions.

Moldova: Gen Creanga Rejects Snegur Accusations in Parliament

AU2206165896 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English
2120 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 21/06/1996 (BASA-press) — Moldovan Defense Minister General Pavel Creanga rejected accusations brought yesterday again by President Mircea Snegur in Parliament.

"The President's speech was absolutely unexpected for me. His report on the situation in the National Army does not correspond to the reality," Gen.Creanga said today in an exclusive interview to BASA.

Creanga said even though his powers are limited, since the Constitutional Court ruling he has managed to restore "the normal working atmosphere in the army." "The President did not treat objectively the achievements of the National Army. This fact is insulting for the officers. Our success is recognized by foreign specialists and the President is well aware of that," said Creanga.

"The President did not fully observe the Constitutional Court ruling, limiting my powers as minister. On one hand, I am fully responsible for the normal activity and combat preparedness of the army, and on the other hand, I am deprived of some basic rights. I cannot even settle matters connected with food provision for the army. The President deals with vegetable and fruit supplies, and that is nonsense," he said.

In his opinion, this state is deliberately maintained to raise the tension in the army and show that the minister cannot honor his duties.

Touching on yesterday's statement by Snegur who did not rule out the possibility to take the reins of the army command in his hands, Creanga said "I do see no juridical ground which would allow the President to do that."

He said he still holds on to his earlier statements that he is ready to resign, but at a time of dearth of officers, a hasty solution is impossible.

"The officers' corps and the National Army Command support my decision," said Creanga.

Moldova: Defense Committee Head Suggests Gen Creanga Should Resign

AU2206180796 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
2140 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, June 21 (INFOTAG) — The Chairman of the Parliamentary Defense Sub-Committee, Victor Zlachevskiy of the Socialist Unity faction, believes that Defense Minister Pavel Creanga should file resignation.

Zlachevskiy said to your correspondent that Creanga could thus settle a conflict-like situation around the Defense Ministry, after he was dismissed by a presidential decree and after the Constitutional Court recognized the decree as non-constitutional several weeks ago. At that time, Pavel Creanga stated to INFOTAG that in case the Court takes a fair decision and he is reinstalled in office, he would resign himself. However, he has not done that till now. In Zlachevskiy's view, the General's voluntary resignation would have several positive consequences. It would liquidate one of the reasons of the current differences between power structures, and could bring a civilian to the sensitive post. The deputy believes, Moldovan defense minister should be a civilian "who would seek to reduce the national armed forces down to a reasonable level, which would later on eliminate the problem of fulfilling political orders from outside, be it NATO or the CIS Military-Political Union, and would save much money on army maintenance".

Zlachevskiy stressed, at resolving these problems Moldova ought to proceed from its Constitution-fixed neutrality, should undertake adequate measures to disarm illegal Dniester military units, and conclude agreement(s) with one or several countries which would act as guarantors of independence of the Republic of Moldova.

Moldova: Snegur Addresses Conference on Country's Development

AU2206175996 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
2140 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, Jun 21 (INFOTAG) — As a state, Moldova ought to have, and proceed from, a clear-cut, sound concept of development and of integration into the community of European countries, President Mircea Snegur stated speaking today at a scientific conference entitled "Molding and consolidation of the Republic of Moldova".

The forum has been organized on Snegur's initiative and is dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the Moldovan independence to be marked on August 27. The main preparatory work was done by the National Academy of Sciences.

Everything what the republic has managed to reach during the 5 years was achieved thank to the people's faith in the ideals of independence, Snegur said. In early 1990s, the Moldovan society faced a historic task of not only beginning all-out reforms, but of initiating a transition from a bankrupt sociopolitical and economic system to a democratic state with a market economy.

Unlike in other Central and Eastern European countries, Moldova did not have state structures of its own, nor national economy. Hence, the reform launching was complicated by the necessity to first begin building a state as such, and to lay a foundation for the national economy.

Despite all problems and lack of experience, Moldova has managed to emerge as a full-right state — both internally and internationally. However, the new conditions failed to erase all traces of the totalitarian past and old-time thinking. The relicts can be observed today in the way of thinking and doing of various social groups, including certain politicians, which only obstacles the reforms and sovereignty consolidation. "We all should clearly comprehend our real possibilities and resources, [illegible]cularly human ones. And we should always rely on science, not on illusions of eternal foreign help — be it from the East or from the West", the President stressed.

Moldova: PDAM Council Nominates Sangheli as Presidential Candidate

AU2206173696 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English
2120 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 21/06/1996 (BASApress) The Moldovan Agrarian Democratic Party

(PDAM) Council has designated Andrei Sangheli as its candidate for presidential elections, splitting the PDAM into two camps, according to a political commentary published by TARA [THE COUNTRY], publication of the Christian Democratic People's Front.

"Some PDAM leaders declined to support the Prime Minister, overtly favoring Speaker Petru Lucinschi." Citing reliable sources, the paper said the pro-Sangheli group, led by Dumitru Motpan, intentionally called a meeting of the PDAM Council at a time when many Lucinschi supporters were absent. But the latter might strike back at the PDAM Congress scheduled for June 29.

The Motpan group's slip to the left caused a resistance of the more moderate elements rallied round Petru Lucinschi, noted TARA.

Many Agrarian deputies are ready to contribute to the dismissal of Defense Minister Creanga, Health Minister Mosneaga and other cabinet members.

The closed-door Parliament sitting this week showed the government team is shaken more than ever, because "not only President Snegur, but also Speaker Lucinschi wishes the fall of the cabinet," wrote TARA.

MESAGERUL, publication of the Moldovan Party of Democratic Forces, said the Agrarians "have the nerve to believe that their true leader — already the third — will nevertheless be sent by open vote directly onto the white presidential horse."

Even if during elections fear among Agrarians may make one believe the PDAM is united, the split seems to be serious and unavoidable.

Lucinschi meanwhile failed to obtain the PDAM support, and under the circumstances he remained with the support of the Moldovan Party of Social Progress and a portion of Social Democrats, because there is no certainty that the "communist-patriotic" bloc will prefer him to its own leaders, concluded MESAGERUL.

The Moldovan Agrarian Democratic Party faction has been apprised of the decision by the PDAM Council to nominate Premier Andrei Sangheli as PDAM candidate for the Moldovan Presidency, BASA learned from Tudor Olaru, PDAM Council member.

Olaru, absent from the PDAM Council meeting that took this decision, said the deputies were announced that Sangheli received an unanimous vote.

The PDAM Council will make public next week a statement on this matter, he said.

Asked by BASA if the recently created Electoral Bloc of the Patriotic Popular Forces (FPP) will support Sangheli, Vladimir Voronin, Moldovan Communist Party leader, said FPP members did not discuss yet about a candidate for the presidential office.

Piotr Shornikov, "Unitatea-Edinstvo" Movement leader, told BASA "Andrei Sangheli's candidateship has not been discussed, but we will do that later."

Socialist Deputy Vladimir Krylov had earlier accused the Moldovan Socialist Party's leadership of secret agreements with the PDAM to support Sangheli during presidential elections.

Moldova: Gagauz Leader Criticizes Chisinau 'Radical Nationalists'

AU2106163696 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2005 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Comrat 20/6/1996 (BASApress) — Some Moldovan senior officials pose barriers to the Gagauz Yeri autonomy, Gagauz Yeri Governor Georgi Tabunshchik told a press conference in Comrat on Thursday.

According to him, such people are in presidential, governmental, and parliamentary circles.

He said "the radical nationalists in Chisinau cannot put up with the existence of the Gagauz autonomy."

Tabunshchik said the situation in the autonomy is critical and Gagauz Yeri's net debt is 120 million lei ($26 million.)

A special governmental commission made an analysis and made suggestions for the economic revival in the region, but the government rejected them.

Tabunshchik was discontent with the delay in transferring Vulcanesti under Comrat authorities' jurisdiction, adding that "Vulcanesti might become a new center of tension in southern Moldova."

The Gagauz leadership intends to propose Chisinau officials to sign an agreement on power delimitation to ensure the implementation of the Gagauz Yeri law.

According to Tabunshchik, Comrat counted on more support from Turkey.

The governor said the problem of the $35 million-loan from Turkey has not been settled and the brick factory, the foundation of which was laid in 1994 and which was to have been constructed with Turkish partners, has not begun operating.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: President: Russian Elections Reveal Democratic Progress

LD2106185896 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As we have already reported, President Nursultan Nazarbayev is now in Switzerland, where he is to take part in the international forum in Crans Montana. Kazakhstan has been named as the main guest for this forum. One of its working days, 23 June, will be devoted fully to Kazakhstan. Our special correspondent, Svetlana Kokovinets, reports from Switzerland:

[Begin recording] [Kokovinets] Crans Montana is a resort in the Alps mountain range and lies between the villages of Crans and Montana. [passage omitted]

Our head of state on Thursday [20 June] managed to give a news conference in unusual conditions — on the train from Geneva to Sion, the capital of one of the 23 cantons of the Swiss Confederation. The forum is taking place on the territory of that canton.

Questions from Kazakh and Swiss journalists concerned the first round of the Russian presidential elections and the attitude of our head of state to the events in Russia:

[Nazarbayev] First of all, this is of immense interest to Kazakhstan. The elections were democratic and free. They did take place, despite various kinds of speculation that they would be called off or banned or that some measures would be taken. The fact that the elections took place shows that [Russian President Boris] Yeltsin is committed to democratic principles and to the democratic path along which Russia is proceeding. Many, almost all, CIS countries want the process of political and economic reforms in Russia to continue. [passage omitted]

[Kokovinets] In the afternoon, a meeting took place in Crans Montana between President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, president of the Swiss Confederation [title as heard].

Representatives of the official delegations of the participating countries have started work at plenary sittings. Our subsequent reports will contain more details of the forum. [end recording]

Kazakhstan: Increase in U.S. Aid for N-Weapon Destruction Noted

MM2406105596 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jun 96 p 7

[Article by Anatoliy Ladin: "Kazakhstan Will Receive Foreign Aid. United States Increases Financial Aid to Republic To Ensure Work of Eliminating Nuclear Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we know, the United States is providing Kazakhstan with assistance within the framework of 10 agreements of various kinds, intended in one way or another to ensure the work of eliminating nuclear weapons on the republic's territory, monitoring and registering the nuclear materials there, and assisting defense enterprise conversion.

Amendments to three of the 10 agreements were signed 10 June in Almaty, increasing the amount of aid by around $40 million. It now totals $172.6 million for all the programs in Fiscal 1996.

Amendments to two agreements signed by the Kazakhstani and U.S. defense departments back on 13 December 1993 deal with problems pertaining to the monitoring, registration, and physical protection of nuclear materials and also of securing the work connected with the elimination of ICBM launch silos and their support infrastructure. The first amendment makes provision for an additional payment of $15 million. The full amount provided for under this agreement will stand at around $23 million. Under the second agreement Kazakhstan is allocated another $8.55 million. Yet a total of $78.5 million is already earmarked for the implementation of this document's projects.

The amendments were signed on the Kazakhstani Defense Ministry side by Deputy Minister Major General Aytkali Isengulov, and on the U.S. side by Laura Holgate, the U.S. Defense Department's special coordinator of nuclear threat reduction cooperation programs.

That same day during a meeting with Science Minister Vladimir Shkolnik, president of the Kazakhstani Academy of Sciences, the U.S. visitor took part in signing an amendment to another agreement adopted previously, 3 October 1995, by the U.S. Defense Department and what was then the Kazakhstani Ministry of Science and New Technologies. It deals with questions of eliminating the nuclear weapons infrastructure. The projects previously considered under these agreements have now been joined by others. They deal with cooperation in "sealing" (closing securely) test galleries in the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site's Degelen mountains. What is more, it was said at a news conference that the amendment, which does, incidentally, increase expenditure on this agreement by $16.5 million (around $22.5 million in all), also provides a legal base for another project — the conversion of an enterprise in the city of Stepnogorsk previously designed to manufacture biological weapons. People there now want to organize the production of medical preparations and feed supplements for livestock farming.

Incidentally, the "top-up" of $8.5 million, intended for projects involving the destruction of SS-18 ICBM launch silos, is now also intended to eliminate seven heavy bombers in Kazakhstan and to support work on eliminating standardized liquid rocket fuel refueling and redistribution systems.

As Laura Holgate said, the funds allocated by the U.S. side will not be handed over to the Kazakhstani side in the form of cash. Contracts are already being concluded and will be signed in the future to carry out work using this funds. Vladimir Shkolnik stressed that some contracts have also been concluded with the Russian specialists who originally created the galleries at the Semipalatinsk test site and who are now involved in sealing them.

Kazakhstan: World Bank Grants $80 Million Loan for Water Project

LD2406121096 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 0600 GMT 24 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The World Bank approved an $80 million loan to Kazakhstan to support a project to improve irrigation and drainage systems. The money will be used to carry out restoration work on major irrigation networks, and to help the Ministry of Agriculture plan and realize capital investments in irrigation. It will also create more opportunities to tackle ecological problems, and will provide support for an experimental project to educate farmers.

Georgia

Georgia: Defense Minister Clarifies Aim of Moscow Visit

LD2106171596 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 1135 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 20 June, Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, Georgian defense minister, gave a news conference. A BGI correspondent Levan Gudadze reports.

The subject of the news conference was the results of a Georgian military delegation's visit to Moscow.

The minister began by saying that every success in building the Georgian army has been gained by joint efforts with Russia. He noted excellent relations with Russian colleagues, including Pavel Grachev. Nadibaidze declared that the Georgian Defense Ministry was establishing contacts not only with Russia, but other states as well. In Nadibaidze's words, the leaders of military establishments of many countries have expressed interest in visiting Georgia. Preliminary agreements have already been reached with the defense ministers of Moldova, Romania, and Poland.

Then the defense minister accused journalists of discrediting his name. In his opinion, the commander in chief must not be subjected to such brazen criticism.

The minister then approached the main subject.

The aim of the visit to Moscow was to confirm the schedule for upgrading the weapons of the Georgian army. According to the schedule, Georgia should receive 100 tanks, 100 armored personnel carriers, six military launches, as well as ammunition.

The minister noted that the Russian side had offered to adopt a memorandum on this issue that will come into legal force after the parliaments of the two countries have ratified it.

"I categorically opposed this offer and suggested instead that the schedule, which has already been drawn up, be signed, thus keeping politicians out of the matter and preventing it from becoming protracted. Grachev agreed."

The minister's following story sounded like a report:

"Grachev was to sign the schedule on 17 June. He was expected by 1600. But he was summoned to the Kremlin. We were told that Grachev would be expecting us at his office the next day. On 18 June, I heard on television that Pavel Sergeyevich had tendered his resignation. At 1230 I went to see Grachev all the same. We had a conversation and parted at 1400. It was clear that the signing of the schedule would be impossible and in the evening we flew back to Tbilisi.

"I was dissatisfied with the results of the visit. We managed to reach agreement on one thing — the Georgian army will be given equipment for the air defense system worth 10 billion rubles.

"I was surprised to see throngs of journalists at the airport. I did not suppose that they were waiting for me. The question on how I would comment on Aleksandr Lebed's statement startled me. You know my answer. This is an absurd statement. I am the commander in chief of the Georgian army and I have a lot of my own business to attend to. This is an accusation and an accusation must have proof." Then Vardiko Nadibaidze asked the generals present to add to his story. The generals obeyed the order. One said that he had discussed the issue of financing Georgian trainees currently being educated in Moscow, and another said he was arranging to get army boots for the soldiers of the Georgian army.

Nobody mentioned Grachev or Lebed's statement. Then questions were put to the defense minister.

"Will you demand clarification and an apology from General Lebed?"

"I would rather work. If a man insults another man, there is no need to remind him that he should apologize."

"Grachev says that he has the chance of working in many countries of the CIS. Will he be useful to Georgia?"

"Pavel Sergeyevich and I are friends. If he should need my assistance, I am ready to provide it. He has vast experience. If he wishes, he can work with us."

"How will Lebed's statement influence Russian-Georgian relations?"

"Whoever is the commander in chief of the Russian Armed Forces will either be a friend or a good acquaintance to me. Of course, our cooperation will continue."

"Have you had contacts with General Lebed?"

"I have not had direct contacts with him. I respected him and as far as I know he was not badly disposed toward me. I cannot explain why this misunderstanding occurred."

"There are rumors that you may resign."

"I am a military man. If the president orders me to resign, I will go."

"Have you met the president since your return from Moscow?"

"Yes. And we agreed that we will return to this issue. I must say that I keep receiving anonymous calls and I am being smeared. This should not be happening. After all, something has been done for the Georgian army."

"Do you link the upgrading of the weapons of the Georgian army with the deployment of Russian bases in Georgia?"

"The Russian bases must be deployed in Georgia. This is not just my opinion, but also the opinion of my colleagues at the Georgian Ministry of Defense. But this issue must be resolved by politicians. As regards the schedule for upgrading the weapons of the Georgian army, this is a separate issue and it is not linked with the bases."

"You met Grachev on 18 June. What did you talk about?"

"This was a usual, friendly talk. Others also participated in it and supported it. We did not discuss anything else."

Georgia: Lebed-Nadibaidze Situation Not To Affect Relations

LD2106174896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1539 GMT 21 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The accusations leveled by the Kremlin's new security tsar Aleksandr Lebed against Georgian Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze will not affect relations between the two countries, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze's spokesman Vakhtang Abashidze told Interfax Friday.

Shevardnadze considers the situation "a simple misunderstanding, on the basis of which no long-term conclusions should be drawn," Abashidze said.

Lebed announced Tuesday that Nadibaidze was party to a plan among a group of Russian generals to exert military pressure on Russian President Boris Yeltsin after Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's resignation.

Shevardnadze considers Yeltsin "the guarantor of democratic processes in Russia and does not doubt his decisions," Abashidze said.

Nadibaidze told a Thursday press conference in Tbilisi that he had been invited to Grachev's office June 18 in order to finalize agreements on Russian arms supplies to Georgia, "and only then find out about Grachev's resignation," he said.

His conversation with Grachev "was as ordinary as it could have been in such a situation," Nadibaidze said. "Like many of the other people in his office, I tried to calm Grachev down, no more. There was no talk about any sort of conspiracies."

He learned of the accusations that he was party to a military conspiracy when he was in the Tbilisi airport and was completely surprised by them, he said.

He met with June 19 with Shevardnadze, who "understood what happened after Lebed's statement, and, so far as I know, this does not mean I will be fired," Nadibaidze said. "But as a soldier, I am ready to carry out any of the president's orders.

"No matter how the situation develops with ministerial lay-offs, these should not affect relations between Georgia and Russia.

"As for my friendship with Grachev, which Georgian journalists dislike so much, this I shall never repudiate," Nadibaidze said. IF Note: Russia is giving Georgia wide-scale military aid, sources in Tbilisi told Interfax. Georgia is beginning to form an air force and navy this year. Georgia is now holding intensive talks with Russia on receiving fighter planes and other aviation technology and spare parts, on reconstructing airports, training military experts, and so forth, Georgia's air force commander Valeriy Nakopy said.

Equally intensive talks are being held on creating a Georgian navy. Georgia is to receive 6 border watch cruisers this year, and the fleet will expand in the future.

An agreement to put a Russian navy base at the Poti port, where the Georgian fleet will also be formed, may also be reached soon, Georgian military sources say.

Georgia: Reaction in Georgia to Lebed's Coup Remarks

MK2206053596 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Jun 96 p 3

[Commentary by Georgiy Dvali: "Lebed's Word Is Not Past Recalling"]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Aleksandr Lebed's very first statement as Russia's Security Council secretary sparked a resounding political reaction not only in Russia but also abroad. Lebed stated that shortly before his removal as defense minister, Pavel Grachev nearly launched a GKChP-3 [State Committee for the Emergency Situation] together with top officers of the General Staff, and with the direct participation of Georgian Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze. Yesterday, the minister was summoned to appear before President of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze.

The statement caused as strong a storm in Georgia as it did in Russia. All the mass media and more-or-less all of the senior officials categorically began to refute General Lebed's statement. The country's president, Eduard Shevardnadze, made an unprecedented move by sending a personal congratulatory telegram to Lebed on his new appointment — something which is absolutely contrary to diplomatic protocol. In the meantime, Vardiko Nadibaidze does not deny that had been in Moscow since 12 June on the official invitation of Pavel Grachev, and that he indeed met with the Defense Ministry leadership to discuss a concrete plan for "developing military-technical cooperation between Russia and Georgia" — in particular, the handing over to Russia the quota of Georgia's arms on the South European flank under the 1990 Paris Treaty on cutting conventional arms. By the way, the Georgian defense minister is also Pavel Grachev's God father. The minister's christening took place in Nanuri Church, in March 1996 during Pavel Grachev's official visit to Georgia. However, Nadibaidze categorically denied Lebed's accusations, stressing that he had neither the desire nor the right to meddle in Russia's internal affairs.

In order to explain this whole story, one should first answer this main question: What does Aleksandr Lebed stand for as far as Georgia is concerned, and what image does he project there? General Lebed was 14th Army commander in the Dniester Region during the war in Abkhazia in 1992-1993. The Georgian press, likewise the Georgian military people, allege that he was providing effective help to the Abkhaz military formations in terms of arms and military specialists. Georgian sources claim that in July 1993, when an Abkhaz force landed south of Sukhumi, Lebed moved a special detachment to Abkhazia to help the Abkhaz landing force out of an encirclement. All these things influence the formation of Lebed's image in Georgia, where he is feared as the embodiment of "Russian neo-imperialism." At the same time, Pavel Grachev who, one should admit, was a rather cunning politician, managed to mend fences with Georgia's leadership. It is with Grachev as defense minister that a treaty was signed between Russia and Georgia on the deployment of Russian military bases on the country's territory, which has not been ratified yet by the Georgian parliament. It is Grachev who promised Shevardnadze that he would bring back to Abkhazia hundreds of thousands of Georgian refugees (and he even made concrete attempts with this regard).

One can assume in this connection that both Grachev's departure and Lebed's arrival are unpleasant developments for Shevardnadze, which somewhat complicates his further relations with Moscow. Which, of course, does not signify that being in sound mind, Shevardnadze and Nadibaidze would right off the mark take part in preparing or even discussing the very possibility of a coup in Russia.

Georgia: Stance on Abkhaz-Georgian Conflict Toughens With Lebed

LD2206132396 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1215 GMT 22 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Jun — Intensive consultations are continuing in Moscow concerning the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces in the Abkhaz conflict zone. The Georgian side still insists that the mandate should be changed and the peacekeeping contingent be given policing functions.

Since the appointment of General Lebed [as secretary of Russia's Security Council], the Russian position on this issue has become even tougher. This is because Lebed was supporting Vladislav Ardzinba [Abkhaz separatist leader] during the conflict in 1992-93. At the time, General Lebed was commander of the 14th Russian army in the Dniester region.

On 2 July [1993], when the Abkhaz deployed an assault-landing force in Tamishi, south of Sukhumi, General Lebed sent a special-purpose unit to Abkhazia to rescue the Abkhaz paratroopers. Apart from that, for a whole year he was supplying Abkhazia with arms and military experts.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.